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ISSUE 8 WINTER / SPRING 2003 5€ \$5 US

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INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND METAL MAGAZINE



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BRUTALICA

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INTERNATIONAL UNDERGROUND METAL MAGAZINE

Issue # 8, WINTER/SPRING 2003

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BRUTALICA logo by: Ivo Ivanov

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Hello, Metalfreaks!

I can't believe that I am already typing the final lines for the 8th issue of your (hopefully!) favourite magazine...

We had planned to finish it at least a month ago but the numerous engagements with both labels and bands had squeezed us, you know. Nonetheless, just like wiser people say, late is better than never! Now when the new

Brutalica issue is a reality at last, I can only hope that you will have seen your fave(s) interviewed here as well as plenty of information about bands that you might be fond of. As I am watching the names included, this seems

to be the most Underground issue we've done ever - contrary to whomsoever's expectations or suppositions!

What I mean is that when a magazine gains more popularity in general, the bands fixed for interviewing are more famous too and are in the trendlists quite often, and this is pretty understandable or logical, if you like...

But this "rule" works NOT for the Brutalica team: the more popular we grow, the deeper into the Underground we delve so that's what our success is due to (hell yeah, I dare say success - we're still here, ain't we!?). In other

words, we keep on sticking to our own principles and rules! Anyways, once more we have included tons of reviews, may they become a reliable clue of what's (not) worth your money or interest. But remember once and for all, sending the right albums to the right reviewers is a very difficult and delicate task! Even if I always comply with Brutalica's writers' preferences when sending them CDs / tapes for reviewing, I am not 100 % capable of preventing disagreements! And I see nothing bad here as

everyone has his / her own view about ART in general! I hope the interviews included will appeal to you and in case you still have any remarks then know that it is not only interviewers whom the end results depend on, the interviewed are not less responsible themselves! Finally, I would like to thank all those who chose advertising their materials on our pages, may our collaboration never end as it was a real pleasure of working with you all, folks!

Last but not least, I am saying huge THANKS to each fan who will have preferred buying Brutalica and thus will have supported us - you rule and you damn know this! Okay, I guess that's all for now, enjoy the magazine and the CD enclosed...

Cheers!

Engineer Chavdar Tzachkov

Chavdar Tzachkov

1. NILE "In Their Darkened Shrines" CD
2. MALEVOLENT CREATION "The Will To Kill" CD
3. VADER "Revelations" CD
4. DRILLER KILLER "Cold Cheap & Disconnected" CD
5. FOREFATHER "Engla Tocyme"
6. DIES IRAE "The Sin War" CD
7. AVULSED "Yearning For The Grotesque" CD
8. SEVERE TORTURE "Misanthropic Carnage"
9. AHUMADO GRANUJO "Splatter-Tekk" CD
10. COCK AND BALL TORTURE "Sadochismo" CD

Diliana Iankova

1. THE CROWN "Crowned In Terror" CD
2. VILE "Depopulate" CD
3. KALMAH "They Will Return" CD
4. THYRFING "Vansinnesvisor" CD
5. ORIGIN "Informis Infinitas Inhumanitas" CD
6. OPERA IX "Maleventum" CD
7. ARRIVAL "An Abstract Of Inertia" CD
8. TAETRE "Diving Misanthroping Madness" CD
9. SEVERE TORTURE "Misanthropic Carnage"
10. NINNGHIZHIDDA "Demigod" CD

Stoyan Tzonev

1. FOREFATHER "Engla Tocyme"
2. RUNNING WILD "The Brotherhood"
3. WITCHERY "Symphony For The Devil"
4. AMON AMARTH "Versus The World"
5. ARACHNES "Apocalypse"
6. THRONE OF CHAOS "Pervetigo"
7. NECROPHOBIC "Bloodhymns"
8. BEWITCHED "Rise Of The Antichrist"
9. VADER "Revelations"
10. KING DIAMOND "Abigail II - The Revenge"

Vanya Marinova

1. ARCTURUS "The Sham Mirrors" CD
2. ATROX "Terrestrials" CD
3. DKAY.COM "Deep Into The Heart Of Dysfunction" CD
4. RED HARVEST "Sick Transit Gloria Mundi" CD
5. TODAY IS THE DAY "Sadness Will Prevail" CD
6. DOMINIUM "Psycho Path Fever" CD
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9. DEFORMITY "Superior" CD
10. RUNES ORDER "The Art Of Scare And Sorrow" CD

Underground music is no longer beyond your vision. Just stretch out a hand and get a grip on this incredible issue that will provide the information you have been hungering for about the music least minded by the media.

NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS NEWS

MÖRK GRYNING will enter Dugout Studios with producer Daniel Bergstrand (known for his work with **IN FLAMES** and **MESHUGGAH** among others) in February. Release expected for June 2003 on No Fashion Records!



After surviving a life-threatening blood clot in his lung this past year, **DECEASED**'s King Fowley has been left with permanent damage to both his airways and right lung, basically ending his tenure behind the kit - as a result, Dave "Scarface" Castillo (OCTOBER 31) has been recruited to play drums - Fowley will continue to hold down vocal duties.

The reunited thrashers **NUCLEAR ASSAULT** are working on their new material - according to the bassist Danny Likker: "I think the Metal scene NEEDS an injection of classic Thrash Metal 'cos I've had enough of people thinking **LINKIN PARK** is Metal. We'll have to show these youngsters how Metal is really played!"

Jane Schuldiner, the mother of Chuck Schuldiner (RIP), posted the following statement recently: "I know you're all concerned that the new **CONTROL DENIED** album won't happen but the legal problems had to be taken care of first, including the legalities connected with Chuck's will. Now things are clearing up and after the first of the year things should start coming together. That's the most important thing in our lives at this time, making sure that we honor Chuck's request that this album be released."

LORD BELIAL's guitarist Fredrik Wester has left the band on good terms due to lack of time - the original lineup has been reinstated: Thomas (v, g), Micke (d), Anders (b), Niclas "Papa" Andersson (g).

ABORYM's vocalist Atila Csihar is at the moment out of the prison in Treviso, Italy (he was arrested for drug possession some time ago) and the trial is fixed later in 2003. The band vows to continue no matter what the outcome will be. Nevertheless, the new CD "With No Human Intervention" is scheduled for January.

EMPEROR'S NEW RELEASE - The undisputed kings of Black Metal return with what will be their last release. This killer collection is a double CD that features a "Best Of" disc compiled by the band themselves and a rarities disc that features rare and unreleased material to completely satisfy the collector. A beautifully packaged double CD. For a decade **EMPEROR** have constantly challenged the concepts and precepts of Black Metal, taking musical risks that no others in the genre would even contemplate. **EMPEROR WERE** the greatest Black Metal band of all time - The Emperor is dead, long live the Emperor! The initial pressing will come in ltd edition slipcase.

YATTERING sign with Candlelight - the Polish Death Metal legends have signed to Candlelight and will release their new album "Genocide" on March 10th 2003. This is an exceptional album. This is the third and best album to date from this highly talented Death Metal band. **YATTERING** after a successful spell on the Season Of Mist label have signed to the Candlelight label and this their debut for the label is something special. This is twisting and intricate, dark brooding Death Metal that still contains enough melody to keep the listener focused on the music - all this into the mix this packs a killer Death Metal punch. Some tracks feel they would be more at home on the soundtrack to Jacobs Ladder! This is one of the next steps in evolution of Death Metal - this is **YATTERING**.

SEPULTURA is working hard on the material for the new album. The band, who have just issued a brand new EP, "Revolusongs", in Brazil, are said to be in the process of demoing 12 new songs for the as-yet-untitled effort, tentatively due in late spring. The follow-up to "Nation" will be recorded at a Brazilian studio in January, and will contain "heavy stuff, HEAVY!" according to the band's official web site. "Some fast, some slow but always aggressive. **SEPULTURA** will definitely surprise you in 2003!"

Yet another cult act from Brazil is coming back with a new release! **MYSTIFIER** finished the compositions for their fifth longplayer going by the name of "Emanations of Pragmatic Thoughts And Complaint of Desolation". More info at the band's official website <http://www.mystifier.com.br>

Southern Lord Records has announced the signing of **THE RAVENOUS** featuring the all-star line up of Danny Likker

(**BRUTAL TRUTH**, **SOD**, **NUCLEAR ASSAULT**), Killjoy (**NECROPHAGIA**, **WURDULAK**, **EIBON**), Chris Raifer (**AUTOPSY**, **ABSCISS**), Danny Corrales (**AUTOPSY**, **ABSCISS**) and Clint Bower (**AUTOPSY**, **ABSCISS**). The band will enter a studio in Vancouver, Canada, to record "Blood Delirium" - **THE RAVENOUS** will also release a new MCD titled "Three On A Meathook" on Red Stream Records.

The Swedes **OPETH** have finished recording their two upcoming CDs. The hard-hitting one is titled "Deliverance", while "Damnation" is the title of the mellower album. So far, five songs and a short instrumental have made it to "Deliverance". "Damnation" has ten songs. More info to come at <http://www.neovoid.org>

ENSLAVED has just completed their 7th and yet untitled studio album. The recordings went extremely well and where yet again produced by the band themselves, Pytten and Jorgen Raen. The mixing will take part in January and the final release is set to the 3rd of March 2003. Heavy, loud, sophisticated and as mesmerizing as ever! As a treat the band reveals some track names here: "As Fire Swept Clean the Earth", "Ridicule Swarm", "Queen of Night"

Finland's depressive Doom Metal masters **UNHOLY** are currently looking for some materials for a new compilation album. Several CDs / DVD (limited) "collectors edition" album will be released to mirror **UNHOLY**'s history from the beginning to the end and this will include plenty of rare stuff (demos, photos, videos, diaries, etc). So, if you have ANY KIND of materials of the kind do not hesitate to contact the guys! You are not going to be paid for that but your name will be certainly added to the thanklist when the compilation considered sees the light of day! Web: <http://www.mel.fi/UNHOLY>



"Hate Them", the 10th album of Norway's second BM Cormphael **DARKTHRONE** is to be released somewhere in March via Moonfog Productions. Isn't it curious to hear what Fenriz and Nocturno Culto have done for only 26 hours? Stay online and keep on checking out <http://www.darkthrone.no> for more info!

Starting in the second half of October 2002, **CELTIC FROST** have begun the initial part of the recording session for the group's new (seventh) album tentatively titled "Probe". Let us wait and see what will follow... Web: <http://www.celticfrost.com>

The cult gore and sickness worshippers **NECROPHAGIA** have already finished their work on their serial opus macabre "The Divine Art of Torture" and it is scheduled for February... The guys are also starting a European tour in March so don't miss going to see them!!! Web: <http://www.necrophagia.com>

NASUM's third CD, "Helvete" is to be released in March / April in the US and in April / early May in Europe if, like the dudes say, everything goes well. Just patience, grindfreak! Web: <http://www.nasum.com>

France is this time the country that has raised a band being a paragon of this how man's fascination of any extremist's effort reflects on Metall Vain! **IMMORTAL AYATOLLAH**'s web site at <http://www.ayatollah.fr/m> and Judge for yourselves...

And here is an interesting statement from **TYPE O NEGATIVE**'s Josh Silver: "I got a call from Roadrunner who tell me that our manager told them that this is what Peter said: 'The name of the new CD is "The Dream Is Dead"'. Glad they called me to tell me, I didn't know that was what we were planning to call it... Sounds weird, isn't, but yet not less intriguing and kinda promising! Can't wait for hearing more from **TYPE O NEGATIVE** - it's been 4 years since their last release "World Coming Down"! Web: <http://www.typeonegative.net>

The ominous Industrial godz **GGH** are coming back with a new CD ("Serrated Smile") very soon!!! Watch out for attacks from <http://www.ggh.com>

Norway's obscure avantgades **DHG** are supposed to show up after 4 years of silence. The album's working title is "Satan Berzerker - Mongo" (!?) and I myself feel more than impatient of waiting till its release... Stay tuned by keeping your eyes on <http://www.moonfog.no>

After various negotiations with different record labels both Spanish and foreign, the band coming out from Malaga (the southernmost parts of Spain) **USER NE**, have signed a deal with **XTREEM MUSIC** for the release of their second album titled "Tarantos", which was recorded within the frames of four months on the first half of 2002. "Tarantos" will be released in January 2003 and will include an interactive CD-ROM track with a video-clip of their song "Nivel Um Cbx" and will come on an initial limited edition of 2.000 copies on DVD box with a wider booklet than on the normal version. To listen to an exclusive advance on mp3, just visit the band's official website at www.usame.net

After a delay of two months over the scheduled release date, the third album of Mexican Gods **DISGORGE** titled "Necroholocaust" will see the light during the first week of January 2003. The delay was basically caused by problems on the band's side to finish the album artwork, that in the end, when it was sent to the label, this one was refused due to its poor quality, so a new cover concept had to be made, being Bjorn Gosses (www.kilustrations.com) who recently did the artwork for the new **AVULSED** album, as well as works for other bands like **NIGHT IN GALES** (his own band), **PYROGENESIS**, etc.

XTREEM MUSIC is proud to announce the signing of Russia's most acclaimed Black Metal act **ROSSOMAHAAAR**. The second album of the band "Quaerite Lux In Tebris..." is ready for an imminent release during the first week of January 2003. This album was already available only for the Russian territory and now **XTREEM MUSIC** will offer them the possibility of releasing this masterpiece to the rest of the world with the promotion and distribution that a band of this caliber deserves. "Quaerite..." has already given a much bigger recognition for the band within their home country, being considered by the prestigious "M" Magazine, the biggest extreme Metal publication in Belarus, as the best Russian Metal band of 2001.

Italy's most impressive Death Metal newcomers **HOUR OF PAIN**, have linked a deal with **XTREEM MUSIC**. Their debut album "Disturbance" is actually being recorded at 16th Cellar Studios (recently created by themselves and their ex-guitar player Stefano Morabito, now their live sound engineer). Expect a killer brutal Death in the vein of bands like **NILE**, **INCANTATION**, **MISERY INDEX**, **GORGUTS**, **HATE ETERNAL**. The band's previous story is formed by their debut demo 2000 and a split 7" EP due to come out in early 2003 through Warford Records. "Disturbance" will be released in February 2003 and some of the songs that it'll include are: "N.E.M.A.", "From Hate to Suffering", "Mystification As Law" and "Blood Tribute".

ABADDON INCARNATE have signed a two-album deal with **XTREEM MUSIC** and their 3rd full length is expected to be recorded at Swedish Soundlab Studios in July 2003 with Mieszko Talarczyk (**NASUM**) as a producer. Expect another top class Grind Core madness in the vein of their last album "Nadir" or in the vein of bands like **NASUM** / **REGURGITATE**.

This new German Death Metal outfit **MISANTHROPIC**, featuring **AGATHODAIMON**'s drummer, has signed a two album deal with **XTREEM MUSIC** and their debut release is due to be recorded around March 2003. Heavy, melodic and brutal Death Metal in the vein of early **DEMIGOD**, **CENTINEX** and **AVULSED**, this band is sure to bring good old memories for lovers of old school Nordic Death Metal.

Formerly **DELVE**, this Swedish band changed their name to **VERMINOUS** back in Sept. '02 and have just signed a two album deal with **XTREEM MUSIC**. Their debut album will be recorded in April 2003 and will be a killer masterpiece of dark and evil old school Death Metal in the vein of bands like **KAAMOS** and **SADISTIC INTENT**. <http://www.verminous.com>

Earache is proud to announce its newest signing - **DEICIDE**. Known the world over as one of the founding fathers of Death Metal, **DEICIDE** stand strong to this day as one of the most influential and controversial Metal bands ever. With a relentlessly brutal sound and uncompromisingly blasphemous lyrics, **DEICIDE** helped set the standards for Death Metal well over a decade ago and have maintained those standards ever since.

Contrary to rumors posted by Brian Malone, **DIABOLIC**'s drummer Aantar Lee Coates has moved forward with the **DIABOLIC** name and lineup from the latest CD release "Vengeance Ascending". After returning from their European Tour with **BEHEMOTH** and **DESTROYER 666**, Brian Malone has parted ways with the band permanently, and is no longer a member of **DIABOLIC**. In addition to **DIABOLIC**'s founding members Aantar Blastmaster Coates (drums), Paul Ouellette

(vocals/bass), and guitarist Jerry Mortellaro from the band's latest CD "Vengeance Ascending", the band has re-united with the original guitarist Kelly McLaughlin, from **DIABOLIC**'s 1996 demo (also founder and guitarist of **PESSIMIST**). The band feels this change is necessary, for the direction in which Brian was headed no longer reflects the true integrity demanded by the Unholy Black Death Metal Underground. **DIABOLIC** is currently writing the new record "Torrential Reign" which will be out soon!

United and Strong is the leading Bulgarian Punk Hardcore label that has releases countless CDs with Bulgarian Punk / HC Bands. They recently launched a new site www.unitedandstrong.net and are working on two new releases. One is a CD by Not Broken in Spirit (fast HC, not unlike Bad Religion - if you ask me) and the other one is a discography CD by the Varna anarchist HC legends **DISSIDENT**. The CD will contain a multimedia part and they are expected really soon.

GOD DETHRONED have finished the recordings for their upcoming album "Into the Lungs of Hell" in the Berno studios in Malmö, Sweden. The album was produced and mixed by Henrik Larsson (the guy who also did the latest **AMON AMARTH** album). The CD features eight songs with a total running time of 38 minutes. The first edition of the new album will be a limited edition with a bonus CD. The bonus CD will contain some live recordings from **GOD DETHRONED**'s show in Los Angeles. Furthermore the two video clips the band did, "Villa Vampiria" and "Under the Golden Wings of Death". Additionally some previously unreleased stuff like a re-recorded version of the song "God Dethroned", a cover version of **POSSESSED**'s "Satan's Curse" and more...



ANAL.GIN is a bright young label that deals mostly with tapes and so far they have released a vast variety of tapes and some CDs. Some of the artists concerned are **AGATHOCLES**, **EXT 13**, **SURSUM**, **DDT** and the filed of the label covers from Oi to Industrial / Noise. Contact them for a list and cheap, high quality underground music. anal.gin@lycos.com

AON distro / label is working on two new projects. After a brief pause, it will unleash the split tape of a Hungarian punk band vs an Argentinean Ska / Punk act. The second project in the works is a compilation LP with 80s Bulgarian Punk bands, quite similar to the **KILLED BY DEATH** type of archival compilations. Looking for possible distributors and traders: aon@mail.bg

VILE are to re-release their much sought after debut album, "Stench Of The Deceased" with 3 smashing live tracks and an unreleased song in February 17. In the same month, the band will also embark on a full European tour with **MANGLED**, **INHUME**, **DISAVOWED**, and **SPAWN OF POSSESSION**. This will no doubt be one of the most brutal tours of the year 2003!

United Guttural Records is proud to announce its newest signing - **DEAD FOR DAYS** (formerly **IN PIECES**) from the Chicago, IL area. The band hopes to head in the studio in February and will have their debut CD out sometime this year. Also, expect new releases in early 2003 from **DYSCRASIA** and **PUTRID PILE** as well.

Italian Brutal Death bulldozers **MINDSNARE** will release their new CD "Noble Ancestry" in February through Forever Underground Records. Also the new album of **CORPSEFEUCKING ART**, "Splatter Deluxe" is finished and it should be out any day now. Expect new releases also from **MUTILATED**, **VENERICUM**, **LEUKORRHEA**, **MORTALITY**, etc...

REGURGITATION has finished recording their new CD "Clitoradectomy"! The new stuff completely blows away the "Tales Of Necrophilia" CD. Expect this release out in February / March 2003. A limited edition gatefold LP of "Tales Of Necrophilia" will be released on Hells Headbangers Records some time this year.

GUTTING EUROPE III is set for February / March 2003 with **VILE**, **DISAVOWED**, **MANGLED** / **INHUME**, and **SPAWN OF POSSESSION**. The first half of the tour will be completed by **MANGLED**, and the second half will feature **INHUME**. The tour will hit the following countries: the Netherlands, Belgium, Germany, Czech Republic, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France, Spain & Portugal.

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One Day The Time Will Come When Everybody Will Listen To Grind Core



Be sure, these Czechs are capable of making you completely insane with their ultra fast Death-Grind! ALIENATION MENTAL is a comparatively young and still less known band but I can assure you all that this won't last long - AM's debut „Ball Spouter“ kicks ass totally and if you are into more extreme Metal genres check this CD out but not before reading this killer interview with the drummer Jarda first!

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

-How are you doing bro, I hope you're in a good mood for interviews?
Hi, Jarda (drummer) here, yes of course. I am very glad that I can answer these few questions to the famous Brutalica Maga (or Mega?) zine!... here we go...
-You're so fuckin' brutally extreme! What inspired you to create such an insane and inhuman album as „Ball Spouter“?
That's simple. We are only guys, loving brutal Death and Grind music. We drink a lot of beer and spend a lot of time in our rehearsal room. We said before the recording. We will record our fastest material with the best arrangements. I am sure that we can say that „Ball Spouter“ is our best CD. I think that all of the musicians (of course in the Underground) try to play some spe-

cial music...we try to make our music special in the fastest and most brutal way...
-Here is the statement of a friend of mine who has purchased your CD: „Dammit, these guys rip - as if I listen to CRYPTOPSY on 78 rpm! Are you apt of agreeing with such a definition or do you have another one for your music yet?
For me it is a compliment to mention CRYPTOPSY and ALIENATION MENTAL in one sentence. So if somebody say that our music suggested the music made by this Death / Grind gods from Canada, I can say only thank a lot... But I think that our music is a little bit different. We are much more mixing Death-Grind-Nu Metal. We will try to start a new wave of Nu Metal, ha - ha. If somebody wants to know which kind of music we produce, I usually tell him ALIENATION MENTAL is MACHINE GRIND. -And I almost forgot to ask you about ALIENATION MENTAL's very beginning - how did you start it all and when? Have you released any demos or 7" EPs as yet?
Oh no, I hate this question. But it is our first contact with Bulgaria, so I have to answer it... I will try to make my answer as short and useful as possible. Everything started Pavel, our guitarist and brain of the band; only for your info, he is right now very ill. The doctors told him that he can't play guitar until the end of this year, and what is much worse than this information is that there is possibility, that he can't play guitar anymore... We will see. I hope, that the beginning of the year 2003 will be for ALIENATION MENTAL much better...now to the beginning of AM... Pavel and Michal (the second guitarist) started pure Grind band. Pavel played guitar and sang, and Michal played drums. It was in 1997. I was the third member. I replaced Michal. Some months we tried to find a singer. We founded Milan (the singer) in a pub. He promised that he would come to our rehearsal room (he was really drunk!!). He wasn't sure that he could sing... In 1998 we recorded our first demo tape „Kopferkingel“ (it is pure Grind Core, one month ago it was re-released by BURNING DOGMA Records in USA on CD format). In 1999 we recorded our second material „Veneration Of The Biological Killing Machine“ (it was released like a split CD with MALIGNANT TUMOUR and like a split tape with GENETIC THREAT). This material is faster and much more brutal. In 2000 the fifth member Michal K. (bass) came. In this year we recorded the material „The Restricted Cerebral Capacity“ for the split 7" EP with INHUMATE (there are two songs and one remix of the song „TV Digger“ from the first demo. This material is like a bonus on the re-edition of the demo „Kopferkingel“, we put it on the same CD, because we wanted to show to our fans that there was a big evolution between our materials). In 2001 our bass guitarist Michal K. left the band and also left the Czech Republic. The new member is Mira. In 2002 we recorded our first full length (fastest) CD „Ball Spouter“. The first April was the date of releasing our vision of the future. Uff! That's all...
-I really wonder where your rehearsal place is - I doubt if your neighbours' eardrums would survive the noise that you certainly make, he, he...
Yes, all of our neighbours are deaf, I am sure... Our rehearsal room is in a small garage, and it is about 50 meters away from the nearest house. We are there for 5 years and we haven't had any (big) problems yet. But I think that you have a good idea about our rehearsals... We are really quiet guys ha, ha...
-How did you come to your band's name, what exactly stands behind it?
It was an idea of Pavel to name the band ALIENATION MENTAL. I think it is an unusual name for a Death Grind band...isn't it? ALIENATION MENTAL is a kind of psychological disease. If you are an inhabitant of a small cottage, and you move to the big city... You would like to go back home. As you can know, sometimes people in the towns are like mad maniacs - traffic jams, etc...
-Let's talk about „Ball Spouter“ for a while... Where did you record the CD, were there any musical / lyrical contributors, how



es from abroad - does „Balls Spouter“ sell good, have you played live outside of your country already and, in case you have, where?
I don't know if we have a lot of fans in Czech Republic, but maybe yes. 99.9% of the reactions are much more than good. We are very surprised about that. I know that „Balls Spouter“ is a good album, but I also know that there are many mistakes on this CD. If we had, for example, one month for recording, it could have been much better, but all musicians know what I am talking about. We were together with CEREBRAL TURBULENCE on the Euro tour (Czech Republic, Poland, Germany, France, Belgium, Holland, Spain, Italy and Switzerland). It was really great. We aren't the true UG band which plays gigs all week-ends. I think that „Balls Spouter“ shows to the world that we are able to play a good Death-Grind.
-I remained with the impression that most of the Czech bands do not seem to regard the lyrical part as really important so the result is rather stupid yet trendy usually... But ALIENATION MENTAL's lyrics do not sound that way definitely so you take yourselves seriously, as far as I could notice. In for a penny - in for a pound, I mean...
I think, that the lyrics are important. They are a part of the music. I think, there should be some idea behind the song. It looks stupid when the singer screams some uncontrolled stupidities. AM isn't a classical Gore Grind band, so we don't have the texts with flood of blood, uaaaaa many corpses, die, die, die 666...
-Could you describe the idea(s) in „Apocalyptic Vision Of The Future“? This is your CD's last track actually...
No I can't...read the text and listen to the song. You will see that you will be caught with the feeling of a man in the last time of his life...
-You have a very solid support from the behalf of Michal Cichy and his Khaarus Productions - good friends you seem to be, eh?
Yes, you are right. Michal is like father of ours (you have to know that he plays drums in CEREBRAL TURBULENCE). He is doing everything he can. I like how he promotes his bands. I wish to all of the bands the same support that we have by Khaarus Productions. To support him and his work please write him something nice: lobokar@mybox.cz
-Have you ever felt like you create music without any limits and taboos? I mean, have you ever felt really FREE at that point?
To compose a song is always a long way full of compromises. I am not really sure if you mean the taboos in music or between the members in AM. I think that all of the members inside our band are open to many influences. Everybody in AM likes many kinds of music: Death Metal, Grind, Hard Core, Nu-Metal, Pop, and many others. It is very important if you want to make fresh songs. I can say that we are free in this point. My plan in the future is to implement many Nu-Metal influences in our music... something like a mix between KORN-SLIPKNOT-CRYPTOPSY with some scratches... we will see.
-Which are the 5 bands which you really hate?
Uhhh, that is a strange question. I can say that I hate some bands. If I dislike some band, I don't listen to it. That's all... I can say that I really don't like 99 percent of the boybands. Now I can remember... I hate BEE GEES (the gay voice is very, very bad).
-I could distinguish some DJ scratches in the fifth track of „The Scathing Feeling Inside of Me“... This is an interesting idea I think, it makes your music more diverse. Any other freshy ideas lately?
The scratches are in the previous song „Children Of South“. As I said, all of us are influenced by many styles. For the future we want to use this in (Death-Grind) new sounds. Now I want to rebuild my drums, I want to buy some modules, pads, and samplers. I want to work closer with the computer. As I said, we will see, how can it works.
-I have been wondering why the Czech Scene does not feature

such a mega band as Poland's VADER... As if things in your country are more Underground somehow?
That's funny. The same question was in two previous inties. I really don't have an answer to this question. I know that there is right now very popular style. So called US brutal Death. I am sure that the whole world will in a few years hear about the Czech band INTERVALLE BIZZARE, they are really great people and fantastic musicians. AM couldn't be a cult. We have to progress...
-Do you have any merchandise for sale? If yes, would you tell the readers what could they purchase and where from?
Everything is on our friend Michal from Khaarus Productions. We have T-shirts, flyers, ... If anybody wants to have something identical contact him, we are only poor and dummy musicians, ha - ha - ha!
-Was 2002 a good year for ALIENATION MENTAL? What are your

goals for the near future - concerts, gigs or a new release maybe?
I have to say in one sentence that 2002 was the best and also the worst in our history. In the beginning of this year we recorded our first full - length CD, which had only good reviews. We think that it is our best material. We were on the Euro tour. But now the situation is very bad. As I said, Pavel's illness started, and nobody knows if he will be ok or not?! There are some small personal problems inside the band (I don't want to talk about this right now). I hope that the beginning of 2003 will be better than the end of 2002.
-Do you buy CDs often? By the way, which bands appeal to you the most lately? Also, do you think that vinyls are something referring to the (irrevocable) past? Unless you prefer buying releases on this format, however...
I buy only Underground CDs, which are released by bands themselves, or by Underground labels. And the CDs made by big bands I burn on my comp. If the CD cost \$ 10 US it is ok, but if the CD costs \$ 20 or 25 US! My last band is SLIPKNOT, I really love what they play. But it could be better if it would be sometimes faster. I don't have a vinyl player so I don't buy vinyls. But my singer is crazy, he has tons of vinyls at home.
-Which do you think is the most progressive Czech label at the moment? Your opinion about Bizarre Leprous Productions, Obscene, etc...
I am not so closed with our Underground scene, so my opinion could be disinforming... I think that the most progressive labels in Czech republic are Obscene Prods and Shindy Prods. (Of course the best label is Khaarus Productions!!). If you want to have a scene report contact Michal from Khaarus Productions.
-Would you point out the bands from your country that deserve more special attention?
Ok here we go. LYKATHEA AFLAME (hyper Death / Grind symphonic blast, influenced by Egyptian music, but it isn't the same like NILE), CEREBRAL TURBULENCE (meeting between Grind Core and old Hard Core - great), INTERVALLE BIZZARE (US brutal Death), GODLESS TRUTH (US technical Death), PIGSTY (pure hyper fast Grind Death Crust Core), AHUMADO GRANUJO (Grind with house and techno music), INGROUNDING (great Grind Death), ISAACARUM (sado Black Metal) - there are many great bands.
-Is ALIENATION MENTAL your purpose in life?
I can say yes it is. It is a very important part of my life. The guys in AM are my best friends. I love our music, and I love playing drums. One of the best things is that AM open our way to the world called Underground. Few years ago I couldn't believe my eyes when I received the first intie from outside of our republic...It is a great feeling when somebody sends to us for example an e-mail where he (or she) writes that we are a great band and we recorded a great album...that's great!
-Now when I have no more questions, feel free to add anything in conclusion...
Ok, so I don't have no more answers?! Thanx a lot for the space for AM in BRUTALICA. I hope that we will visit your country (I was there like a small boy for 14 days near the sea - as you know Czech republic is an ex - communistic country so we could go only to the east ha - ha). I can remember that the holiday was great. I want to say hell-o to all of the Death Grind maniacs. Once more thanx... If you want more information about AM feel free to write me. And on the total end of this interesting intie, Chavdar... wasn't your grandfather the famous designer of world's most famous bus? Take it easy thanx, thanx, thanx and bye...

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We want to do only qualitative music!

Many people regard PRIMORDIAL as Ireland's most famous and successful act. Of course, I agree with that statement too because this band plays unique and original music, very deep and professional. The main reason for doing this interview was the band's new masterpiece „Storm Before Calm“ - an incredible opus filled with remarkable moments and strong melodies. So, here is the interview, I really hope your pleasure of reading it will be amounting to my pleasure of doing it!

DILIANA IANKOVA

-First of all, congratulations on your new album! In my opinion it displays PRIMORDIAL's progress pretty well - maybe you found a new source of inspiration or something?

Thanks! Not really...we are just following this natural path of evolution right now. We just try and keep focused and determined.

-What have you thought about while working upon the new tracks? I mean, were they based upon personal emotions or experiences?

Really, we just wanted a heavier more direct album foremost, what we were thinking about... I don't like to analyse it too much but it was a time of stress and pressure and I think the album sounds like that. There is a lot of anger in the new album I think you can hear that. It's always based on personal things...

-Hearing such a decent release worth the waiting definitely but still I cannot help asking: what was the reason for these 3 years of silence? What were you busy with all that time if not a secret?

3 years?... „Spirit The Earth Aflame“ came out in 2000...it was actually about 22 months of silence...we always take our time, quality not quantity!!

-I could feel a very strong moment in your second track - „Father, I'm Still Searching!“. What stands behind this?

I just wanted this to sound very cinematic and expressive... I don't want to sound too clichéd but what are we doing in life but searching for answers...

-What are PRIMORDIAL in search of both musically and socially?

We are searching to make something timeless irrespective of genre, that's what we have always been searching for! To make music we love on our own terms without ever giving in. Socially...striving for joy and strength like anyone else.

-Sofar your CDs have been in the catalogues of Cacophonous and Misanthropy and you work with Hammerheart at the moment... What are these changes due to? Broken promises, high criteria?

Just changes of circumstance you know, sometimes you go as far as you can. The balance of power is very much in the hands of the labels, sometimes it can get very frustrating and make you bitter towards the whole thing. Other times as with Misanthropy they just folded and we had to go somewhere else.

-Have you ever happened to have received really promising offers and where from?

Well we have received quite a few different offers over the years, with who I can't really say.

-Does „Calm Before The Storm“ have any particular message for the listeners?

It really stands as a challenge to your will power, it means before there can be Calm you must Storm. Challenge your environment, your morals your emotive reactions. Many things. Find your place within your history and your culture.

-I think that the new album fits you perfectly. Apart from being a relevant name for a return after 3 years of silence, it also has some gradation - with

every elapsing minute tension seems to be growing in my opinion...

I said before it's just under 2 years of silence...in which time we did re-release our first two albums. We are always evolving my friend...we don't stand still. Stagnation is something we are very aware of and try to combat!

-So what should we expect from now on - calmness or stage storms? Or you're starting to work upon another album maybe?

Who knows? Expect some serious new challenges and more evolution. You can expect some stage storms as always!

-What unleashes the artist in you?

To a question like that I can only answer...life. No matter how pretentious or vast that sounds. The unquenchable desire to create.

-Do you believe that everything is possible to be done when it comes to music creating or do you think there are any limits though?

I don't really think about it, I don't feel limited in any way. Of course there are limits like money etc...but as far as my imagination is concerned... not many.

-Do you (all) accept compromises concerning music creating? What I mean is if you're capable of doing something that you may like not but would help your albums sell better...

There are things you always come up against, but we try and make the music sounds as natural and pure as possible you know. I think what goes around sometimes comes around and perhaps PRIMORDIAL's time is coming soon...of course being bigger would give us many more opportunities but I don't think we are the kind of people who would change for anything.

-I used to play classic guitar years ago and what I eventually learned was that performing somebody else's songs with skill could not guarantee that you would be a good composer as well. Do you meet difficulties in composing yourselves sometimes? And do GEASA help you?

GEASA simply we share a rehearsal space with... Of course being a good musician does not guarantee being able to write good songs... I know many peo-

ple who can play really well but can't compose a song. Thankfully we have that creative spark after all.

-Do you purchase CDs for your collections often? I try to...

-What else are you all involved in save PRIMORDIAL? Do you have jobs, hobbies...?

Jobs, it doesn't matter what we do. I have hobbies we all do, history, traveling, sport etc.

-Do you agree that things that bring pleasure are most often either forbidden or caloric even?

Too true! You just need that balance and control.

-What kind of music are you into yourself?

Mostly traditional 80's Metal...MANOWAR, JUDAS PRIEST, IRON MAIDEN, VIRGIN STEEL, BATHORY, CANDLEMASS, etc...that kind of thing.

-Your release has been recorded at Academy Studios and produced and mixed by Mags and PRIMORDIAL. Great job you've done definitely - do you share my point or do you think that you might have omitted something?

We have to work very hard in a stressful environment with a small budget, we cannot afford to fuck around for 3 months. We do the best we can in that respect. There are always things that can be done differently.

-Is anybody from you busy with another band too? I have FUNERAL PYRE...something like late 80's BATHORY and early MANOWAR. You may see something some time, and I also I'm gonna sing for VOID OF SILENCE from Italy as well.

-The photo for the CD displays 5 individuals but the names of the members listed are 4... Is the fifth guy a guest musician?

Well he didn't play on the album, he will in the future. He plays live with us but time didn't allow him to play on this one.

-Thank you for your time very much. Your final words?

Thanks for your time and patience, hope to see you on tour. I wish you your Will.

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-Would you like to introduce ROT for our readers?

Yes, surely! ROT started back in 1990 and since this date up to nowadays we have been really active under this name. We have released a lot of records and tapes worldwide, we toured 3 times around Europe, we got a lot of good contacts and good friends everywhere and our line-up had several changes over the years! Only Mendigo and I remained from the original ROT!

-Is it hard to be in such a band for that long time? And what is the current scene like in Brazil?

It is because we always have to find some energy to continue it going and hopefully we always found it! The line-up changes make us think twice about continue or not, but you know, it seems that we are totally addicted to this thing and we can't stop it!! About the Brazilian scene I can mention you a lot cause it is really a big scene but with a poor structure, anyway we have a lot of good bands there and I can recommend you the following ones: LIFE IS A LIE, HATE CORROSION, DISCHORD, EXECRADORES, LYMPHATIC PHLEGM, TRAUMA

ACUSTICO, TAPASYA, SUBCUT, BNSIA DE VOMITO, CONTRASTE BIZARRO, ABUSO SONORO, FECULENT GORETOMB, STOMACHAL CORROSION and too many others!

-How is touring going? Will you ever play in Bulgaria...I think you have many fans...

Touring is always hard for us cause we don't use to play so many gigs in a short period as we do here, anyway we have a lot of fun playing everyday in a different place, knowing a lot of different people, drinking some good beers and things like that. You know, that are too many new impressions and experiences to catch everyday. The ROT / WOJCZECH tour last gig was on 28th of September in Rostock (Germany) and after it I decided to stay little bit longer here! We played in Budapest (Hungary) and it should be fun to go Bulgaria too but I think we didn't get any contacts for gigs there before start touring.

-What about the new LP? I heard it while I was reviewing it and it is a great record. Can you add some info?

We recorded the "A Long Cold Stare" album in a total hurry to send the master as soon as possible to Rodel and Tower Violence Records to get the LP ready for the tour. Anyway I think the final result is brilliant, the songs are faster and shorter than some previous stuff and it is running really well cause the 1st LP pressing is almost gone and in one month the CD version will be released in Brazil. I think it is a good album for people that are still enjoying that old kind of 80's grindcore and for people that are still into our music after all these years.

-Most of the Grind Core bands are obsessed with gore, you seem to be more into politics... why? I can't consider ROT a political band as long as we have more personal and philosophic stuff on the texts. I have nothing against gore-splatter stuff but for my personal taste it is really boring to write about this, but I think someone into gore can think the same reading our lyrics!

-I know you surely do not live through music so what do you do to make your bread money?

We have to work some normal jobs to get some money to survive! I also do some alternative stuff once I run a small label but I am far away of living off from this label but it helps me to pay the bills sometimes!

-Do you think you will run ROT forever? Many people get tired after the first 10 years...

Forever is too long time man! Nothing remains forever! We have done it for 12 years now and we didn't get tired yet! Maybe we can continue



Rotting Your Prejudices With ROT

Well, ROT have always been a special band for me - ever since I heard about them from a guy who sent them a pair of porno mags and they sent him some music. This guy even appeared on the cover of their first CD. And they didn't like porno, but were friendly enough to reply to him! Ordinary people, that scream out their energy and release countless albums and EPs every year and still keep true to the basics that they recognised while they were a small and completely unknown band. And they did a great interview, while being in Germany... so, read it and get their new vinyl. For it is awesome and vinyls still rock!

IVAIO TONCHEV

grinding for the next 12 years!

-What is your fave ROT record and why?

We use to say the next one is the best one! Of course I have my fave ones such as the split 10" with YACOPSAE, the split 7" EP with PSYCHO, the "Your Lie Is Gone - Your Day Has Come" LP and the "A Long Cold Stare" LP too. I don't know why I like them most, I think it is just a matter of taste.

-Vinyls or CDs? Your opinion?

For me vinyl is still being the best thing to listen to some music. I love vinyl format very much too, all things are in a large size and not really compact.

-Some people pay a lot of money for copies of rare vinyls...are there any ROT records that also fit in this category and what do you think about it?

I never pay that much to get a record, I am not rich and I think some people make abuse of it and I don't wanna contribute with this. I don't know if someone could sell a ROT album for an expensive price even if it is too rare and hard to find.

-What inspires you to keep it going?

It is the energy behind the band that moves it and if you can still feeling it you can keep it going. I really enjoy to get in touch with a lot of people, see concerts of other bands, meet my friends and this all contributes a lot. It's really great to see people doing something in everywhere. Of course, sometimes you feel disappointed with the whole thing but after you rest/keep silent a while you can return full of new blood!!!

-What do you know about Bulgaria... do you remember any of your contacts here?

Not too much anymore to tell you the truth! I still remember two girls from Sofia, Svetla and her friend sent me some self made bracelets with ROT name on it, it was really funny and we loved it, I still have my own even if it is too dirty and old now! Sometimes Svetla sends me cards and some nice pictures too and I want to get this

opportunity to say a big hello to them anywhere they are! I remember DEAD Magazine that did an interview with us long time ago and some bands that I still have on tapes but I just can remember one now: D.A.D.M. - really chaotic noisecore in the way I love!

-I remember a funny story about somebody that sent you porno mags from Bulgaria and asked you for music. I think this even ended on one of your thanks lists (I think it was the first CD)...so what did you think about it back then?

That is true man! I got a porno magazine and the guy asked me to send some tape or fanzine with Brazilian bands! It was really funny too and I sent him something in trade and I gave the magazine to a friend of mine who used to collect this kind of stuff! I stayed in contact with that guy for a while but I don't remember his name anymore, anyway I want to say big hello to all of you who wrote me once and if you feel like that, don't hesitate in get in touch again! Cheers to you all!

-Do you think that your music is just "noise" or you have always considered it "mind challenging"?

It's hard to say and we must recognize that grindcore won't change anything cause it is not a soft kind of music. I think we can change our own lives and try to live in a different way if it is good for ourselves.

-What made you start it all and was it hard back then in 1989... it was 1988-1989... right?

Do you mean the band or listening to Hard Core? Well, I already wrote something about ROT beginning so I will tell about myself now! I started listening some kind of Metal and hardcore in 1985 and I didn't stop up till now! I used to make a fanzine at this time too and it help me a lot to get in touch with a lot of people worldwide. ROT started long time later in 1990 and we recorded our first demo in February of 1991, the first 7" EP came later in this same year and we didn't stop doing this!

-You also run a record label, what are your experiences thus far?

Yeah, it is called Absurd Records and I started it back in 1995 in order to help other labels on releasing records. So far I have released a bunch of EPs and LPs but I can't remember how many cause I don't use to put numbers on them! Mostly I do split EPs with Brazilian and not Brazilian bands. I am trading all over the world with other small labels and I think it is a good way to help bands get better know in everywhere, ask for the Absurd records releases in your local distributor and if he doesn't have any, kick him!! No, no I am just joking! If someone wants to buy or trade some stuff just get in touch with me and we can work it out!

-Do you like to check out new / unknown bands from exotic places? Have you ever heard any Bulgarian bands?

As much as I can cause I think this is the spirit, I am not like a bunch of guys who just want to buy and listen to the records with the very well know logos and names! Check out Darbouka Records from France, they always release very unknown and exotic stuff! Absurd Records try to do something like and that and if you check the bands I have released you will recognize that they aren't famous stuff! Sure, I know Bulgarian bands but mostly from the beginning of the 90's and mostly I can't remember the names right now since I am not at my place and I can't check out my tapes!

-What is your current Top 5 albums?

I haven't listened too many new stuff now but I can mention some I am listening to now: LIFE IS A LIE CD, VENOM/BATHORY bootleg LP, FEAR OF GOD "Grind Masters" bootleg LP, ANNE CLARK "An Ordinary Life" LP, MELT-BANANA "Charlie" LP...

-At the moment while writing this, the world is again at the edge of a world war... Bush threatens Iraq. What do you think about this all? And what do you think about the current political situation?

I think Bush is a big shithead who is playing of super hero, he wants to control everything and he will start a war cause his big power vanity. I dislike all current globalization shit that reduces everything on consume and brings a lot of prejudices.

-Drugs - yes or no?

I think if you do them you do them but it isn't for me!

-How is the tour going on? What are the worst or best experiences that far?

The tour was pretty good in my opinion, we got good reaction in many places but we also played for a total apathic audience in some other places! I think these are the downs and ups of a long tour and that is ok, we didn't play well everyday too and it is almost the same!

-Political correctness - yes or no? Do you try to be politically correct?

None of these! I just believe in being myself, labels like these just makes me sick!

-What are your future plans?

A split EP with our friends from WOJCZECH will be released to celebrate another tour together and long friendship among us! Now I need to go back to Brazil and make the whole thing again!

-Any final comments? Thanks a lot for your time!

First of all I wanna thank you very much for the good questions and for your interest on making it. If someone else wants to get in touch just feel free, letters and electronic messages are welcome! Check the ROT website for future news at: www.rotbrazil.cjb.net

ROT "Old Dirty Grindcores" 1991-2001 CD is now available on 2+2=5 and ROTTHENNESS Records, total of 65 songs!!! Check infos at: www.terror225.cjb.net

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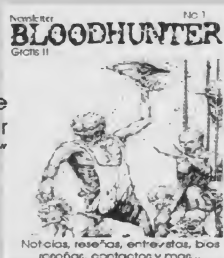
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When you reach for the stars it's not a big chance to end up with a handful of mud...

It was like 6-7 years ago when I heard RED HARVEST for a first time and I still remember the effect that their music had on me. Back then I was a diehard Black Metal fan so I guess you could have an idea of the way I might have felt like after hearing a band which, although non-BM-related, literally threw me in the bushes for its relentless and morose sound! Back to 2002 though...What is most important is that the 5 dudes from Oslo returned with another no less brilliant release caring the eloquent title „Sick Transit Gloria Mundi“! With the help of Collin from the Redharvest Planet I got in touch with the band's guitarist Ketil Eggum aka Turbo Natas. So let's see if you, after reading this interview, will keep on considering Norway as a Black Metal breeding house only...

VANYA MARINOVA

-Your latest release literally hammers down with its uncompromisingness! You seem to have accentuated upon the riffing rather than upon the special effects this time...

Basically the layering and riffing is built up much in the same way as before. It's probably got something to do with the studio, the sound, the production and the fact that we spent long time working on the different elements in the music. Compared to „Cold Dark Matter“, that was more or less a fist in the face, STGM is more complex and more like a clean, still brutal cut.

-Was your transformation of the „Sick Transit Gloria Mundi“ dictum meant to mirror transience and (bitter) irony in life?

We have always liked word plays. Like „HyBreed“, „The Mazur nation“ and stuff like that. We added the „K“ in „Sick Transit Gloria Mundi“ to make it a bit sicker, if you understand. „Sick Transit Gloria Mundi“ means „thus passes the worldly glory“.

-By the way, how did you come to the very name of your band? The reason for asking you this question is IN THE NURSERY - they have a song called „Red Harvest“! Do you know this formation?

I am really not sure... I don't think it's got something to do with the IN THE NURSERY. And I didn't know that. It could be that the guy who came up with the name got it from the old Dashiell Hammett book called „Red Harvest“. But I really don't know, I'm just guessing now.

-Your GGFH cover version just rips! Why did you choose exactly this song for paying your tribute to these Industrial gods, is there a peculiar reason?

Because GGFH fucking rule and they prove that it's possible to play dark and evil music without guitars (many people tend to think that's not possible). Just to get this straight: We use guitars, but a lot of narrowminded dickheads still believe that using synths and samples is fake. „Dead Men Don't Rape“ also fitted the context of the rest of the album really well, so it ended up on the CD.

-I've been listening to „Pandemonium“ hell of a lot lately... Are you into KILLING JOKE too?

KILLING JOKE is great. We have been talking about making a cover version of one of their songs („Black Moon“).

-I know that you started existing as a Thrash Metal band first... What made you change your course? (Still I believe it

has been for good as you actually rock now!)

I am pretty sure we'll never return to Thrash Metal again. We really don't like wearing Bermuda shorts with a lot of colours, he-he.

-I read some info about each RED HARVEST member in Collin's site and I noticed that, almost without exception, you have pointed out „Cold Dark Matter“ for your favourite release as yet... You must have given very much from yourselves so that the very album would see the light of day, did I guess right?

Well, it's been some time since we answered those questions, and those things may have changed. I think it's kind of natural to feel that the latest effort is the best, otherwise it wouldn't be a point in releasing it, right? So, right now I think „STGM“ is the best. But when that's said, I must admit that I have close relationships to all the albums I have played on, they are some kind of testimonials that mirrors how I felt and what the life was like at that very moment. „Cold...“ has a very dirty and raw feeling that I like a lot, but „STGM“ is stronger as a whole. The entire band was really involved in the entire process, the songs, melodies and riffs are stronger, so are the lyrics and the production. Neil Karnon, the producer, managed to capture a lot of the „live“ feeling and the layering a lot more than on our other releases.

-Speaking of „Cold Dark Matter“, what kind of death in the cyborg era did you have a vision of? Mental? Spiritual? Jimmi wrote that one while watching TV. You know the wars from Balkans and Iran and Iraq. Strange, you know, to watch „live war“ from your living room. It's about the „new“ technological warfare, free for everyone to watch. Guess the answer is both mental and spiritual.

-What dreams do you think a cyborg might have?

I guess they dream in infrared.

-Both your lyrics and your music remind me of another album which has nothing to do with RED HARVEST stylistically namely BLACK SABBATH's „Dehumanizer“ since 1992! What do you think about it?

Sorry, I haven't heard this album. Is it worth buying? Guess so... must check it out.

-Do you think that „computerization“ is to remove the scull itching gradually?

That song is about a guy (true story) that decided to change his look radically. He tattooed his entire body, his head and face included. He claimed it was like being re-born.

-Have you been in the forest lately?

Yes. I went out yesterday, and I also find a lot of peace walking in the mountains or spending time at the ocean side. But not for too long. I am an urban guy, and freak out after a week. Then it's back to the concrete jungle.

-„Humanoia“... I like this punword because I find it very meaningful yet relevant... As if paronomasia works much better than words concrete pretty often, eh?

Yeah, we like to puzzle with words. Don't think it's anything wrong in making up words as long as people understand what you mean and that they have pieces of „real“ words in them, so people get the point.

-I've been thinking... Haven't you remained with the impression that humans seem to create miracles by getting inspiration from the negative in Nature rather than from the positive when it comes to art of whatsoever kind? What I mean is that lovesongs or happyend movies appear to be kind of trivial usually while „Hannibal“ or Giger's works will be certainly remembered years ahead...

You got a point there in my opinion. Crazy, depression, pity, sadness and sorrow is probably the source to a lot of art, not only music. Do you for example know a good band from Hawaii?

-Are you into sci-fi literature? I am myself and I've always found that most of the novels referred to this genre turn out kind of prophetic eventually... What is your point anyway?

Well, much of the lyrics for „STGM“ are inspired by sci-fi, new technology and cult prophecies. We had all the songs ready on preproduction when the planes hit the buildings in New York - September 11th. I listened to the preproduction while watching TV - it was like the prefect soundtrack.

-Years ago I acquired a compilation of Dunkel Prod. that featured RED HARVEST, HUMID, VAMPIRE STATE BUILDING, ORIGAMI TEKNIKA, TERRANOIDZ, etc... I have to tell you that my view of the Norwegian scene changed radically as I knew of Black Metal bands only back then. And I think your country keeps on being linked to this very style basically so I suppose now's the time for you to recommend some non - Black Metal - related bands to the Brutalica readers...

This was harder than I thought, I usually listen to bands that have some kind of „dark“ and „Metal oriented“ style: BRONCO BUSTERS, WHEN, BEL CANTO, ROYKSOPP, BOGUS BLIMP, JR EWING, SINNATAGG & BADASS, MOTORPSYCHO... check out <http://bandindex.no/> for more Norwegian bands.

-What are you (all) occupied with when you're not busy with RED HARVEST?

Some of us work, some of us don't. I design album covers, posters, ads - you know stuff like that.

-Imagine that you are given the chance of becoming the serial space tourist: would you have the guts to head for the stars?

Yes, I think so. What is there to lose? At least, when you reach for the stars it's not a big chance to end up with a handful of mud.

the underground

MANTAK

„Dark Borneo Art“ Demo Tape

MUZIK BOX

Save NEBRAS and MANGGAS I haven't heard about other Malaysian bands so I was really curious for giving MANTAK a listen as well... Thus, they do not only with anything innovative - the guys stick to the well known Black / Death metal and use facepaints - but still the songs are performed with skill and held angst. Check out „Dark Borneo Art“.

Vanya Marina

MANTAK

„Eye of Deviant“ Cass LP

MUZIK BOX

The latest effort of the Malaysians leaves me with the impression that they have re-recorded older stuff as the sound quality is sensibly worse than that of „Dark Borneo Art“. Second that, Naz' vocals sound pretty amateurish in comparison to the previous album... What I have to mention as a plus anyway is the „cassettes“ layout - remarkably dark and cool!

Vanya Marina

LORD OF THE COMMAND

„Vicious And Unrelenting Savagery“ Demo Tape

Self Released

I must admit that what I have heard from today's Australian scene is not new so I felt really intrigued when I was sent the demo of LOTC for reviewing... That what the Ivory Demons offer is far from bad Death Metal. The 5 songs are performed with a great deal of angst and sound rather promising. I will be waiting forward to hear some more from LORD OF THE COMMAND!

Vanya Marina

ANGUSH

„Promo 2002“ CD-R

Self Released

No doubt, every CARCASS fan who is also obsessed with collecting truly Underground stuff will beguile me as hell for what is in my hands is the promo of a Malaysian band which includes a live cover of „Incantated Suffer Abuse“! Otherwise, ANGUSH offer yet 2 gruesome and unpolished Death Metal tracks that shine with nothing peculiar but with the band's evident eagerness of playing extreme music and spreading it worldwide. I wish ANGUSH good luck in the future!

Vanya Marina

VEGASCOURGE

„Leviathan“ Promo CD-R

Self Released

VEGASCOURGE is a one-man project from the US. His „Leviathan“ promo CD features two tracks the first of which („Vitriol“) is from an upcoming EP titled „Outside The Echocambers“. The second song's name is „Slayer“ and appealed to me more. What VEGASCOURGE offers is Black Metal with some Industrial touches. Not a bad result on the whole but still it is evident that the guy needs more to learn...

Vanya Marina

VEGASCOURGE

„Outside The Echocambers“ CD-R

Self Released

Definitely this EP sounds much better than the „Leviathan“ promo! The 6 tracks included in „Outside...“ offer obscure Metal / Industrial melodies compiled by the spectrally weird voice of R. Palmer Roy - VEGASCOURGE's only member. I believe many people will find „Outside The Echocambers“ intriguing despite its current popularity of the Metal / Industrial combo as this guy from the US has actually managed to create something different! I will be watching forward to hear VEGASCOURGE's full length debut!

Web site: <http://www.syntheticeccreations.com/vegascourge>

Vanya Marina

NOPLACETOHIDE

„Zukunft“ Promo CD-R

EMI

It was not long ago when I was sent the debut album from this Norwegian outfit for reviewing and it appealed to me hell of a lot! What I am listening to at the moment is the band's promo featuring 5 tracks from the upcoming „Zukunft“ CD which should be including 7 more tracks. Well, I will only say that I can't wait for hearing the ENTIRE album so I wish NOPLACETOHIDE good luck with finding a decent label as soon as possible! Meanwhile, check out the band's web site - <http://www.noplacetoHide.org>

Vanya Marina

IN PECCATUM

„Antlia“ CD-R

Self Released

As if I have heard this name before... Anyway, what the Portuguese trio has created is a dark Death / Doom opus consisting of 5 tracks that, although not shining with anything never heard before, will certainly delight your ears with its implausible. What I enjoyed most was the guitar solos - rather skills and crystal clean they contribute enormously to the more wild sound of „Antlia“ along with the melancholic synth and piano tunes here and there.

Web: <http://www.inpeccatum8m.com>

Vanya Marina

DRAKSTER

„New Times“ Demo CD-R

Self Released

This band (the name of which also belongs to a fast and powerful racing car) has been formed like 4 years ago in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Just like the DRAKSTER members have stated themselves, their music is sensibly influenced by inspired by such cult acts as BLACK SABBATH, DIO, SLAYER, EXODUS or TESTAMENT. The 4 Thrash / Heavy tracks in the „New Times“ demo are performed with a great deal of vigour and adroitness and would appeal to every hardcore headbanger. An awesome beginning! Web: <http://drakstermetal.com.br>

Vanya Marina

ERED

„Promo 2000“ CD-R

Self Released

Well, not bad... What ERED from Spain offer is rapid and melodic Black / Death Metal with discreet synth tunes and female vocals. here and there. Some acoustic passages also contribute to the darker and more diverse sound of this promo. Good start. Web: <http://www.geocities.com/ered666>

Vanya Marina

UNFLESHED

„Exhuming The Bastards“ Promo CD-R

Self Released

Ehm... I couldn't say that this Death / Grind piece appealed to me very much. Although these Portuguese dudes are not devoid of skill and eager of playing extreme music, their promo sounds kinda impetuous and tedious in my opinion. But if you are into sickening grinds, thick riffs and fast drumming check „Exhuming The Bastards“ out... Contact: unfleshed@mail.ru

Vanya Marina

BESTIA

„Demo 2001“ CD-R

Self Released

Hm, it turns out that you don't need to walk untrodden paths in order to tick the muse out of a reviewer's head... What I mean is that BESTIA sound is conditionally Black Metalish that I meet serious difficulties about writing whatever! It was only the intro and the outro that stuck in my ears, nothing else... yawn. Web: <http://www.zone.se/Bestia>

Vanya Marina

-Greetings from Bulgaria! LIVIDITY is well known to our readers already since two of your previous releases have been reviewed in Brutalica... So what's going on with you now, after the release of "...Til Only The Sick Remains"? We are now door to door salesmen with our brief cases and LIVIDITY propaganda and blasting the souls of weak minds enforcing the sickness and brutality amongst mankind where we can!! Or we get the door slammed in our faces...ha, ha, ha... Pretty cool to think that we are well known in Bulgaria... I will have to get out my world map again and see where you are exactly located and put a gold star on that country!! Just kiddin' with ya!! You guys must be sick!

-What about the fans' responses? Was the CD accepted positively or still there were negative reactions as well? Hmm, all I see 95% of the time are European or Asian reviews and write ups! So the majority of those are in their language, so as far as I know they could all be talking shit about us and the whole country burst into laughter and we don't know any difference! Morbid and everyone else says there is nothing but positive reaction...there is also some honest individual thought about our newer stuff not being as potent as the last works, but we didn't write this album to do better than anything we've done, we wrote another album of the way we feel at the moment and it works in the same degree of what LIVIDITY is and wants to accomplish each and every time! The production has cleaned up, the grooves have mesmerized you, now...it's just time to crush!!

-Do you have any info about the sales - in which countries your album seems to be purchased most, etc...?

Germany of course is the main outlet, but it seems to be getting sold everywhere, not much US press yet, but hopefully will pick up, Morbid doesn't have any good US outlets, but the copies we are receiving are flying out the window! -Let's discuss your label (Morbid Records) a little... Isn't it difficult being an US band with CD's released via a German label? I mean destination and so on...

Not difficult, they are easy enough to work with at a rapid pace, but as far as distribution, like I said, not much hitting the states yet... I wish someone here in the states would license it from Morbid for a US deal, then this would be complete for us!! Someone like our bro, Brian Baxter and Ablated Records... That would crush!!

-This is your second release through Morbid - so you are satisfied with the label I guess? Will you keep on working with them in the future?

This is actually our first release with Morbid but we did sign for a 2-album deal...so we will be working with them again of course and we are very happy with the efforts, professionalism, and press of the whole release!!

-Are you fans of any other bands being under the banner of Morbid? Such as HAEMORRHAGE, DEAD INFECTION (RIP) or OBSCENITY for example...?

Fuck yeah!! We are into HYPNOS, HAEMORRHAGE, OBSCENITY, IMPETIGO (re-issues), older stuff of AGATHOCLES, DISINTER (Illinois brothers) as well as EVIL INCARNATE! There are others! But mostly the old school or grind bands!!

-Let me bring you back in time for a while, when LIVIDITY was set up as a one-man project, are there any demo recordings referring to that very period?

Some rehearsal stuff, I did a 3 song promo as one-man project but shortly after started working with Tommy Davis (drummer / vocals) on 2 man songs with the 4 track recorder and produced the raw, "Ritual Of Mortal Impalement" and a split tape with MORGUE FETUS (IL) 1995! Those were fun... then in '95 we got the whole band rolling!!

-Since I have not listened to your debut "Fetish for the Sick", could you point me out the difference(s) between that very CD and your latest release - sonority, line-up, etc...?

"Fetish..." was a sick raw grindy short story like CD...songs never really getting past the 2.5 minute mark and brutal grindiest at times! Pretty old school ways I think... Primitive style!! The last piece just has more aggression, cleaner production, longer thought out song writing... Still obtains the primitive raw writing technique we are accustomed for... Plus with different drummers on each release, they all give a certain individual attitude with each release... We haven't really changed direction or anything... I can listen to all the songs and feel they all fit together!!

-Have you played in other bands before forming LIVIDITY? The first drummer and I played in a band called SECTION 8 here in Illinois... This is when we started doing LIVIDITY



... Til Only The Sick Remain

What's the result when some porno-addicts and Death Metal fans decide to form a band? I guess LIVIDITY is the right answer. In the last few years this band takes its place in the US scene and attracts the interest of both fans and specialized press.

Check out this interview with their guitarist Dave Kibler if you want to learn some things about them, their influences, their favourite porn star...

TSVETAN RACHEV

together... Matt and Aaron were both in a band called DESECRATION (IL), both bands broke up about same time and we formed out of the ashes!!

-The production of "...Til Only The Sick Remains" is incredible! Who was the producer and where did you record the album?

Scott Creekmore (singer of BROKEN HOPE / drummer of NUMSKULL) produced the album and we went to his Mercenary Digital Studios (in his basement) up in Zion, IL just above Chicago. He did do a great job for sure!! We will most likely use him again!!

-This CD has very "cannibalistic" cover - who was the author? Did you happen to be banned in any countries for the sake of the CD layout as yet?

No banning yet, but the artist is Alfonso "Artgore" Ruiz of Mexico... He drew our "Fetish For The Sick" cover, so we went back to him taking a character off that particular cover and made this album, so it reflects the original aspects and story lines of the beginning, a continuation so to speak!! He did a great job!! We did however have to make a 2 cover deal so SPV would distribute the discs, but that doesn't bother us...we just want that much more people listening to us!!

-Are you going to tour Europe? If yes, which bands are you going to play with and where? Any East European countries

included in the list?

We had to postpone the tour coz the label and agency had some unclear issues so we will hopefully be heading there by mid 2003, but nothing concrete yet!!

-You became notorious for your lyrics dealing with all kinds of sexual perversions... So who is the perverted mastermind in the band?

It all started with Tommy (our first drummer) he used to write the majority of the lyrics and was more towards the sexual perversion, while I write more of the gore theme... Matt has taken over in the writing department and is tongue lashing every bitch in sight, if you didn't already know that!! I still write some lines here and there...

-Talking about lyrics, I just couldn't avoid mentioning the movie samplers in "...Til Only The Sick Remains". And which is your fave porno film? What about your fave porno star?

The samples range from porn to ninja cartoon, to some of our favorite comedies or horror movies! One of my porn films is a recent one by a group called Apocalyptic Productions on the east coast of USA that made a movie titled "Anal Ball"...it has some crazy cool shit in it like priest and a monk getting their rocks off with a nun, a hippie that smokes bong on the shitter, a guy in a chicken suit, a judge sentencing a filthy whore to eternal fucking in which

he makes her shoot ice cubes and banana pieces out of her asshole!! Killer shit!! I don't really have a favorite porn star anymore... There are so many of them nowadays!! As long as they all like to fuck and suck! I'm there with my cock out!!

-I wonder if many girls come to your shows...?

Sure do... It's a lot of the times a sausage fest, but the chick that come to the show I'm sure likes to be man handled by all the hot greasy guys in the pit!! And we get the infamous titty shots!

-Since I mentioned live performances, what are the LIVIDITY shows like? Do you resort to any special effects or you rely solely on brutality?

We just wear our street clothes and rely on sheer brutality! No armor, spikes, face paint, fog, just the music and the bands energy on stage! We occasionally like to throw porn off the stage...that creates some great havoc in the crowd!! Shit I wish everybody would bring us porn instead and throw it on the stage!!

-Which was the very first band that turned you into a metalhead? The very first album that you purchased for your collection, the first concert you've been at...?

Hmmm, let's see... If you go back to 1977-78, I was probably in 4th grade, my parents divorced and I was staying with relatives, they had an 8 track music box and I have had a BLACK SABBATH 8 track called "Master Of Reality"! So I was able to jam that a lot and that's when I started listening and enjoying the darker and more ominous sounds of Metal music! From then on I would look for the IRON MAIDEN, VAN HALEN, KISS, URIAH HEPP, and so forth! As a teenager, I would say SLAYER really tore me apart as well as EXODUS, ANTHRAX, METALLICA, SAVAGE GRACE, OMEN, and such, this is around 1984-85, then when OBITUARY, CANNIBAL CORPSE, SUFFOCATION, DISMEMBER hit the scene in '89 to early 90's, fuck, I was hooked for sure! Such power!

-Would you point out your 5 all-time favourite bands and their releases? Which is the band that impressed you most recently?

1. CANNIBAL CORPSE "Butchered At Birth"; 2. DISMEMBER "Like An Ever Flowing Stream"; 3. SUFFOCATION "Effigy Of The Forgotten"; 4. PARALYSIS "Patrons Of The Dark"; 5. OBITUARY "Slowly We Rot"...you only asked for 5 but there are many more... Recently I am really into LUST OF DECAY (US), DISLIMB (US), INTERVALLE BIZZARE (CZ), REGURGITATION (US), SKINLESS (US), ALIENATION MENTAL (CZ), and many more...

-Your favourite (non) Metal musician(s)?

I like good Blues and Jazz fusion as well... I was into bands like Stevie Ray Vaughn, Talking Heads, Jethro Tull, Genesis... and I still pop their releases in to get a variety...

-The best and the worst LIVIDITY gig(s) ever? What will you remember 'em with?

The best gig... They are all crushing but most memorable is Milwaukee Metal Fest 1999 when we packed the room of 600 freaks and played across the hall from D.R.I. when they were on stage. Also when we played a show in St. Louis, MO. in 2000 + End Of Days Fest in Indianapolis, IN. 2001, these were 3 of the best gigs with great crowd and tons of power!! The worst...well, I would say going 3 hours to a show opening for SIX FEET UNDER, IMMOLATION, INTERNAL BLEEDING and getting set up and they cancel us off the bill due to SIX FEET UNDER needs more time to warm up and they are having shit problems so we get the shaft!! That was in '96 - '97!

-Are you busy with any jobs or do you live on music only? We all have jobs, there is no bills getting paid with LIVIDITY!!

-Well, I think I'm done... Your words for the freaks all over the world? Thanks...

Thanx, Tsvetan for the killer support... You Rule!! I also run a small mailorder distro, so everyone can write for an electronic list or by snail mail!! Support The Bands That Support The Scene!!! Stay Sick!

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Lividity

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USA



cockandballtorture



Bulldozer Bondage Gore

In the last few months some crazy Gore maniacs from Germany caught the heed of various fans worldwide. And the end result was their contract with Ablated Records! The trio has an unique and catchily extreme Gore Grind style (with the freakiest vocals I have ever heard!) achieved by the combination of various tempos that definitely contributes to CBT's diversity and individuality in sound. In short, I find this band very special, it is not everyday when you come across such a jewel against the background of all that mediocre stuff. Anyways, here is an interview with their drummer Sascha. I believe you will enjoy it...

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

-As I can notice, the fans' interest in your band has been amplifying lately, I could even call it a CBT Mania as I am being asked about your CDs and such really much! Okay, let's unveil the mystery and supply the readers with some info about COCK AND BALL TORTURE...

Cheers, well, honestly I'm not too much into the scene in Bulgaria (guess you mean your country) so I don't really know what's goin' on there but it's good to see that there is some interest. There's no mystery I could unveil or something, we are around for about 6 years now, we had a lot of releases in the meanwhile and have been doing many cool gigs. If there's someone reading this who knows nearly everything about us it's cool, but I won't start a biography now. Like I already said, it feels good to see that there's a big demand in your country for our music, 'cause I never thought that there's people who know about us. We have never been in Bulgaria, I don't know if we ever get there, we'll see...

-How many releases does your discography feature and where could they be purchased from?

All in all we have 11 different releases on different formats, there's several Splits on 7" EP, MCD, LP, Tapes, CD's. Not all of them are available. Many of them are sold out already. Some of them were limited to 500 or 1000 copies, especially the vinyls. All other releases can be purchased directly from the labels, which released them or through different mailorders and labels worldwide. It'll take too much space here I guess to list all the different releases and the labels, so if there's someone interested please visit our website www.cockandball.net to get a detailed info about every single release.

-I am listening to your latest "Sadochismo" CD... I find it rather slower in comparison to your previous albums but still the vocals keep on being the most freaky ones I have ever heard! Say few words about the recording process please.

The new album is definitely slower than the last full-length "Opus(sy) VI". I'd call it a natural process or development of our music. There's no real aim to get slower, it just happened. We got more and more into the mid-tempo parts, the heavy obese grooves and I think they became a trademark of CBT. There's already too many bands out there trying to be faster than others, that's pretty boring and nothing

special I think. All we try is to do our own music and to be special in a way. When we entered the studio all the songs were already finished so we just had to record them. We always work this way, you're not running danger to waste too much time with arranging songs in the studio and you can save shitloads of money. We were absolutely confident as we finished the recordings and heard the final product. It's still something totally different to play a song or to listen to it. You know, doing a song in our rehearsal room and listening to it sounds good, but just concentrate on the songs when you listen to them is way better. All we wanted was to record some heavy and gory shit and we got what we wanted. We recorded in the same studio again where we recorded the first full-length, the guy knows how to do it and knows what we want. About the vocals, they turned out very good this time, we always try out something different to reach the best vocals possible. This time we used two different harmonizers for the first time and it turned out sick. There's more variety in the songs and it sounds way sicker...

-When did you feel for a first time your inclination of playing music in the Gore vein and which band/s are/is responsible for that: some DEAD INFECTION or IMPETIGO maybe?

When we started playing Gore we listened to bands like HEMDALE, GUT, DEAD INFECTION, CARCASS and some more, there's / was no aim to sound like any of these bands mentioned, we just wanted to do "something like this". None of us ever listened to IMPETIGO, it's no real Gore, that's more fun music in my opinion. Doesn't really matter now...so, through all the last years we developed our own style, people know that and appreciate it so we got exactly what we wanted. Not just attention, no way, I'm talking about appreciation for what we do. And that motivates you even more to create more sick tunes for the obscene and twisted out there.

-The "Sadochismo" layout seems to be pretty unusual for a Gore band - could we label CBT as an "Intelligent Gore band" or maybe you have another definition for yourselves? I won't call us an "intelligent Gore band", there's no reason to. You are not automatically intelligent if you do something different than someone else. Don't you think? We just do everything the way we think is the best for us. It just has to fit. I don't have a problem if you call us "intel-

ligent"...ha, ha, no way...talking about layouts, well, I do all the layouts for our releases myself so we always get what we want, they were pretty unusual from the beginning compared to other Gore bands and their artworks...but that's exactly what makes you special and interesting. And interest is the main priority, the most important thing...if people lose interest, who the fuck should buy your shit?

-I guess it would be interesting to know something more about Germany's Gore Grind Scene... How do you find the bands out there? What about fans, are there any?

The "scene" here is not that big, there's some bands around making cool music like our friends from MUCUPURILENT, LIBIDO AIRBAG and NUNWHORE COM-MANDO 666, SANITYS DAWN, MINDFLAIR and some more.

There's not too many gigs where we live, there's no scene here at all so we have to go to the northern or western parts of Germany to do gigs, it sucks!! I'd say there's many people here in Germany enjoying our music. We have tons of friends here in Europe, bands and labels, and it's always is funny to meet these people and have fun with them at the gigs...there's of course many people who don't like us and our music but that's normal. You can't satisfy everyone.

-Have you met problems for your band's name? By the way, how the heck did you come to it?

We never had any troubles with our name. I didn't even expect to have any, why? Most people think it's funny 'cause they don't know what it actually is. It was pretty hard for us to find a name when we started. We had lots of ideas but it seemed that there's nothing suitable for our music we were planning to do. One day I watched something on TV about sexual habits and shit...and suddenly they were talk-



ing about CBT. As I read this name for the first time, I knew that it was the right thing for us...that's all
-COCK AND BALL TORTURE is a three-piece-band, right? Or maybe you have a new member now? Anyways, could you say something about each of you? The reason for asking you this question is your photo - you look rather normal for Gore Grind musicians...

Ha, ha, what do you expect? Long-haired gay zombies? Há, há...I don't know how a "real" Gore Grind musician has to look like, that'll be interesting... anyway, we are a three piece from the beginning. We just had a 4th member on stage for a while to do the vocals, but handle everything ourselves right now, so there's no longer a demand for a 4th member. We are absolutely confident the way it is, I don't think it'll work to have one more guy in the band. No way. About us, well, our guitar player is studying something with electric techniques for some years now, he's 24 years, as all of us. My brother is playing bass, we are twins and like I said 24 years old as well. He's studying too, something concerning politics and science. I'm going to school as well, doing graphic design and shit like that. It's pretty hard sometimes to do gigs 'cause there's always someone of us having to do something for school and for work. That sucks but we try to do our best to have as many gigs as possible.

-Is there a concrete "recipe" for these insanely horrid vocals? They sound really deranging!!

Ha, seems you're into them? There's no "recipe". You just have to know how to do them and you definitely need some good equipment, that's all!

-In the "Sadochismo" riffage I find a lot of influence from DEAD INFECTION and what was only missing was the rapidity itself... Why did you decide to change stylistically? Still I could distinguish some fast moments but they didn't seem to have anything in common with the Grind genre... Well, first, there's not even 1 riff that sounds like DEAD INFECTION, they played something totally different, be sure. I know what I'm talking about. No problem anyways, pretty interesting to know what people think about your music... So you can't say we changed stylistically. We

always did our own thing. We had some faster parts, yes, but never something typically for Grind or Gore. There was never any reason for us to do that 'cause we don't like playing that. We like heavy grooves and see people moshing and dancing at our gigs. That's way more better instead of seeing people just banging their asses of 'cause it's just fast and you can't move to the music. Come and see us live and you'll know what I mean!

-Are you satisfied with Ablated Records? It seems that Brian Baxter did a great promotion of your new CD... Will you keep on working with this label in the future?

We are confident the way everything turned out, be sure. We always try out something new. Different labels, different experiences, that makes you grow as a band. Brian is cool, really, he's into our music and supports us. That's all we can expect from a label. The good thing is, that his label is pretty small so he can concentrate on his releases. Talking about labels is not my thing honestly, there's too many people out there waiting for the "wrong" word and start telling lies and shit so I won't tell you anything about future plans with Ablated or anyone else. There's still some time until we start recording our new stuff, we have to wait and see if everything goes the way we want. That's all...

-Did you play live as yet and where? Are your shows (going to be) as crazy as your band's name is?

Fuck yes, we had lots of gigs already. We played in many parts of Europe as France, The Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland, Czech Republic, England and 2 gigs in the US. It's always fun, be sure. Our shows are pretty normal I'd say. It always depends on the crowd. The mood is very important, but we never had any bad experiences so far. There's always a lot of dancing and some moshpits of course, like I said, pretty normal. Don't expect any dildo-porn-shows on stage. It'll be cool but we don't have the chicks to do it...ha, ha...

-Would you say at least 5 reasons for which any fan should purchase "Sadochismo"?

1. Its not just for Goregrinders, it's for everyone into brutal music!

2. There's many heavy grooves on it to fuck your girlfriend to! The right speed!

3. Good sound quality!

4. 41 minutes of playtime!

5. Buy it because it's CBT and that means quality Gore!!

-Any interest in medicine?

Huh? Don't know exactly what you mean, lets try it...none of us is interested in medical things, we just like this pathological shit CARCASS talked about. And if you talk about drugs, fuck no, we'd never take any medicine as drugs or to get high. That's too much shit!! Talking about anodynes.

-Your opinion about Techno Gore Grind projects such as LIBIDO AIRBAG or NUWHORE COMMANDO 666???

Not too much to say, I don't like drum computers! I just like the guys from the bands and respect what they do but I'm not too much into their music. I don't like these one man drum-computer combos, one guy does everything himself and nothing real good or professional. Know what I mean? It is always the same shit, the same shit again and again. There's for sure many people who like this kind of music, not me. I don't have any problems that there are "bands" like this out there, that'll be stupid 'cause it's still music in a way and I respect people making music. But it doesn't mean I have to listen to it. It's the same for us, we just try to make music people can enjoy, there 's for sure many out there hating our music, or hating us for what we do for any reason I don't care...that's music business...

-How would you react in case your mom or dad ask you what COCK AND BALL TORTURE's songs are about?

My parents know what we do. They never had any problems with that, they are the best I can imagine. Absolutely tolerant and they support what we do. There's nothing we have to hide or whatever.

-What do you think the mass attraction to the Sex and Violence combo is owing to?

It's natural for a human being to be interested in things not common. People see or even recognize, that there's something else, something different they never expected. Sex

and violence attracts, more than ever before. Sex sells, everyone knows that. It's just pretty difficult to decide whether it's legal or not. The more extreme, the more people are interested. But at this point you're running danger that people don't care about your music any longer, you're just extreme and different, concerning stageacts, artworks, whatever...a certain balance is mandatory! I can't support violence in every form, violence towards or against females and children has nothing to do with our music. That's why I can't understand bands showing mutilated and dead babies on their covers. Is their music so bad that they have to revalue it (better devaluate) with their covers? Many people think, extreme artwork means extreme music...and that's wrong...

-How about women - have you ever been hit by a girl and, in case you've been, I am curious to know the way you (might) have reacted...

NO!! Maybe you expected a real cool story - ha, I have to disappoint you!!

-Imagine that you are being asked to write a song for Britney Spears - what would be the track title?

Hmm, definitely something about virgins. Something about little girls with tight cunts that need to be fucked the whole day. Or perhaps some special things like animals? What about animal sex? Seeing Britney boned by a huge animal cock? Probably "Britney's Horse Affair"...could be funny...

-How do you see the future of planet Earth?

I just think about my personal life. There's so many things I want to learn and see, I just concentrate on that. I don't even want to know the future of planet Earth if I had the chance to. I don't care, I just try to make the best out of my life.

-What would you say to our readers?

Buy our new album bastards!!! If you are into Gore / Grind whatever, buy this album, you won't be disappointed. Support the Underground and visit our website www.cockandball.net

See ya! Thanx a lot for this intie and the possibility to be featured in your "zine. It was a pleasure, thanx for your support!!

cockandballtorture

cockandballtorture - sadochismo

15 traxx of bulldozer bondage gore to knock your dick in the dirt !! this is the ultimate gore/groove album ever !! punishing hooks and grooves to catch you and beat the piss out of you, leaving you pleading for more !! bound to please all fans of brutal musick, don't be a bitch, take your beating and like it !!!!

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Bleeding Black

Finally another Bulgarian Black Metal band appealed to me!!! Save BRUTAL MIND and GLADES OF GLOOM I was incapable of pointing out any other act(s) from my country that really deserve(s) to be given a listen. I understand though that it is not easy to form a Black Metal band in Bulgaria or wherever without being in the shadows of the 90's cult acts from the North such as DARKTHRONE, IMMORTAL or EMPEROR (RIP) but this does not mean that my understanding should transform to tolerance since what I have heard from here as yet has been kind of childish done. I do not exclude the probability of being accused by plenty of folks here who know how fond of DARKTHRONE for example I am... So I will state for them all that nothing starts from nowhere - it is not a secret that the people involved in the bands I mentioned above started playing music on their turn driven by the 80's representatives. But STILL they found their places in The Scene (after years of hard working!), didn't they??? And I believe that BLEEDING BLACK are in search of their own as well - despite their doubtless resemblance to DARKTHRONE and (early) BURZUM I could feel their individually expressed in relentless ferocity that was achieved with remarkable skill. Ultimately, although I agree that the Extreme Metal bands with female frontiers are not that scarce anymore, may I say that Pagane kills?!

VANYA MARINOVA

Keep Black Metal alive and unpolished!

-At first, congratulations for your stunning debut! Honestly speaking, I am not a big fan of Bulgarian bands but what I heard from you actually floored me down, I mean!!!! And I find the CD layout rather professional too yet the BLEEDING BLACK logo is very original - who stands behind this all?

Agan: Well thank you for your kind words! Vampiriac: Thanks from me too. As for the music and the album layout, it is solely Agan who is responsible for this.

-The photos at your official web site just kill - where are they taken from and who was the shooter?

Agan: All pics are taken in Vratsa by Jivko Donkov and date since the autumn of 2001.

-How did you find Pagane? Her screams are naturally unholy, by the way!

Agan: I agree. How we met? A friend of ours came one day while we were rehearsing and told us about her. Back then we were looking for a vocalist and the idea of taking a girl did not appeal to us at the first moment but we changed our attitudes after we gave Pagane a listen. She actually kills, that's it.

-As I could see, you all are well experienced already as you have been involved in other bands before BLEEDING BLACK namely NIGHTMARE, SRAM I POZOR, REQUIEM, DUM-DUM... I dare for see that you will become a sensation abroad and many people might show interest in your previous projects; would you give any clue of where the releases of the bands mentioned at supra could be found from?

Agan: Eh, may you guess right about us... As for the acts you asked for, fans could contact us directly for further info. NIGHTMARE have one album released in 1993 and it could be found in the BG music stores. That goes for SRAM I POZOR too. Nothing from DUM-DUM though.

-Angela of 043 Records told me this summer that BLEEDING BLACK promo CDs have been sent to various labels already... Any responses as yet? Offers?

Agan: That's right, some labels received copies of our album and we've got great responses but still this means nothing, not yet, he, he... As for offers, signing a contract is not our main goal, we merely try to do so that our music be heard by more people. On the other hand, if you are really eager of giving BLEEDING BLACK a listen, we're not unreachable...

-Many fans in Bulgaria compared you to (earliest) BURZUM and even DARKTHRONE already. Does this make you nervous?

I mean, do you take all these associations for hints that BLEEDING BLACK are copycats and plagiarists?

Agan: Well, if you think that we spend our time in spinning DARKTHRONE's and BURZUM's CDs constantly then you lose. We merely express our own ideas through our own music. As for copycatting, DARKTHRONE and BURZUM could be taken for plagiarists too in case someone goes too far with juxtaposing them with CELTIC FROST and BATHORY! Black Metal is one of the oldest genres in Metal and BLEEDING BLACK's main goal is keeping this style alive and unchanged.

Vampiriac: Let's hope that all those folks are not DARKTHRONE and BURZUM listeners only (kidding, of course). I find their reaction natural but pretty banal at the same time. I see no sense in juxtaposition myself. Such a resemblance is understandable as we play Black Metal as well. Second that, it was not Fenriz and Varg Vikernes who have invented this very genre, y' know.

-By the way, what do you think about the Bulgarian Metal scene? Any recommendations to our readers from abroad?

Agan: I guess I should mention KOROZY, DIMENSION OF HARM and - last but not least! - my faves DISTOPIA. Our scene is not that huge but it's ok though.

-You did several gigs here in Bulgaria yet - how does the crowd accept Bleeding Black?

Agan: I guess they found us strange in the beginning but we all have a lot of fun now. Running crazy!

-In case you be asked to make your choices for playing live at one of 3 prestigious international festivals where would you prefer to go?

Agan: All or nothing, ha - ha - ha...

-Which countries are you eager of going to?

Agan: Many. We love traveling.

-Do you approve patriotically orientated lyrics for Black Metal bands?

Agan: It depends. If it is for the sake of Black Metal only, fine. But if the lyrics considered are too fanatic then this has nothing to do with BM any longer but with policy. Anyways, you could do whatever you wish and people choose to join you or not.

-And what do you think about the BM classics VENOM, BATHORY and HELLHAMMER?

Agan: CULTI Especially HELLHAMMER and BATHORY (till 1988).

Vampiriac: Hell yeah, I was obsessed with BATHORY in the

past myself. And I feel really happy for being involved in a Black Metal band nowadays.

-Do you have favourite tribute albums and the one(s) to which band(s) would you like to see BLEEDING BLACK a part of one day?

Agan: I like „DARKTHRONE Holy DARKTHRONE“ but I've heard cooler tributes though. As for covers by BLEEDING BLACK... I would love doing such of any songs by TYPE O NEGATIVE, Nick Cave or CELTIC FROST.

Vampiriac: The BATHORY tribute is far from bad as well. I like the Iggy Pop one too (ha-ha).

-The very name of your band resurrected in my head the memory of „Dracula 2000“ - have you watched this movie? In case you have not I will only say that it deals with the idea that Judas Iscariot, after committing a suicide, becomes a... vampire. What do you think about such a „perspective“?

Agan: Argh, I watched an interview with the editor and the actors. Total crap!!! The impression all these folks left me with was that they didn't seem to know what it was all about. So I was expected to believe that Vlad Cepes is Judas, eh?! Hell yeah, dullness is another typically human trait...

Vampiriac: There is nothing more original than the original itself! F. F. Coppola's film rules totally. Speaking of new „Dracula“ versions, this reminded me of CRADLE OF FILTH's laic videos, ha - ha - ha...

-Back to BLEEDING BLACK now... More recent news about you? Are you working upon another album?

Agan: The new material is ready and we're entering the studio very soon. Another portion of ghostliness and bloodfreezing severeness!

-How about the lyrics? Are they going to be in French as well?

Agan: Most of the songs are in French at the moment but still we might release the next album with an equal number of French and English lyrics. Don't know yet.

-Imagine that you're famous already and have just realized that a certain band did an industrialized cover of a BLEEDING BLACK song... What would you do?

Agan: Well, it's a bit hard to imagine this but I will try though... I think I would make a compromise only for Trent Reznor and SCORN. Or MINISTRY and GODFLESH, to some extent. I like Industrial.

Web: <http://www.geocities.com/bleedingblackmetal>

the underground

HEATHEN HOOF
„Demo 2002“ CD-R
Self Released

I can't remember to have been so disappointed lately! When I read at first that a MORNINGSTAR member was involved in Finland's HEATHEN HOOF I thought it was to hear another ponderous Thrash attack but what I am listening to at the moment is... heh... a grotesque tribute to the 80's. A Heavy / Thrash combo in the clumsiest possible way! Contact: powerwiking@hotmail.com

Vanya Marinova

ARCHMAGES
„Demo 2001“ CD-R
Self Released

This demo is the only recording from Estonia's ARCHMAGES (founded in 1990 as REFINERY first). Thus, it offers a couple of melancholic Doom / Gothic tracks with entirely clean male vocals plus female singing. I am not impressed by the band really but I admit that its demo sounds promising. Let us see what we will be brought in the future... Contact: wheeler@mail.ee

Vanya Marinova

HATEWORK
„Thrashers' Attack“ CD-R
WORK OF HATE

A-haaa! What we have here: a killer Thrash Metal promo entirely accorded to the 80's vehemence! Exclusively dynamic and uncompromisingly raucous. HATEWORK's 5 tracks will definitely convince even the most pessimistic head-bangers that Metal is not dead. Now's the time to unstiffen your necks, folks. Thrash till Death! Contact: workofhate@hotmail.com

Vanya Marinova

JALOR
„Religious Unpure“ Demo CD-R
Self Released

WOW, another eloquent proof that Brazil have had and still does have what to offer when it comes to Extreme Metal music! With their „Religious Unpure“ demo JALOR have certainly become true and reliable keepers of the recipes for blood boiling legated by (earliest) SEPULTURA or SARCOPHAGO... Two tracks of incredibly adroit and alternatively fast Thrash Metal is what you're going to hear in case you purchase JALOR's demo by emailing them to: jaior@pagina.de

Vanya Marinova

EMPTINESS
„Eternal Rising“ Demo CD-R
Self Released

Here is another piece dragged up from one of the Underground's darkest pits. What EMPTINESS from Belgium come up with is a demo including 4 tracks of grim Death / Black Metal that sound pretty good! Otherwise, the band made since July 1999 and so far has had the chance of appearing on stage as a frontliner of bands such as ENTHRONED, CIRITH GORGOR and MALE SACTIS. Contact: bloed_axis@caramail.com

Vanya Marinova

VARATHRON
„Promo 2002“ Promo Tape
RECAPTOR Distribution

„The Master Of Swamp“ is the only album from Greece's VARATHRON that didn't appeal to me very much so I haven't shown interest whenever I have happened to hear about the band's come ups after that. Anyways, what I am listening to is the clue of what VARATHRON's upcoming „Crowsreign“ CD will be like and it seems to be really good! The 3 songs on this promo tape are Death / Black Metal oriented but generously decorated with (somewhat) male cholic acoustic passages and beautiful synth and violin melodies that contrast enormously to the weirdly awesome atmosphere of the recording itself... I am looking forward to hear „Crowsreign“!

Vanya Marinova

DESTROYING DIVINITY
„... Created...“ Demo Tape
Self Released

This is the first ever demo recording from this Czech band (formed in 2001) and it offers 7 songs of severe Death / Black Metal performed with remarkable skill! Deathmangling grunts spreading angst and hostility against the background of brainslinging leads, ponderous riffs and versatile drumming - that's what you're going to be listening to within the frames of 24 minutes in case you decide to purchase DESTROYING DIVINITY's demo by emailing them to: destroyingdivinity@mail.cz

Vanya Marinova

GERBE OF LIFE
„Same“ Demo Tape
Self Released

This French outfit has been formed in 1997 and what it comes up with now is 10 songs in the Death / Grind vein. I am into such bands that much but still I could notice that the GERBE OF LIFE members are not bereft of routine yet the tape quality is far from bad so there isn't no reason for disregarding G.O.L. especially if you're a diehard Death / Grind / Crust Core fan - get it or regret it! Contact: Gabsk@wannadood.fr

Vanya Marinova

PROFONDO ROSSO
„The Demo“ Demo Tape
Self Released

I have stated before that I am not a devoted Death / Grind fan but still I regard the live recording from this Italian band as far from bad! The cassette I am listening to contains 11 songs almost the half of which are covers of NAPALM DEATH, BRUTAL TRUTH and CRIPPLE BASTARDS (another Italian act which PROFONDO ROSSO evidently respect a lot...) The tape quality is pretty good for a live recording so the pleasure of accepting some more grinding ferocity is complete! Contact: terrorentertainment@iscallnet.it

Vanya Marinova

ROT
„Your Lie Is Gone - Your Day Has Come“ LP
BUCHO DISCOS Records

I have a solid passion for this band. I have been knowing them for years, I am used to trade with one of the guys stuff from my distro and I know these folks are really honest and sincere in this manic Thrash / Grind Core. I loved the songs on this release - good lyrics and good message as always. My true respect for these guys. I do not know if this has been released on CD but for the vinyl and mosh around the turntable! Contact: absurd@btfree.com.br

Vanya Marinova

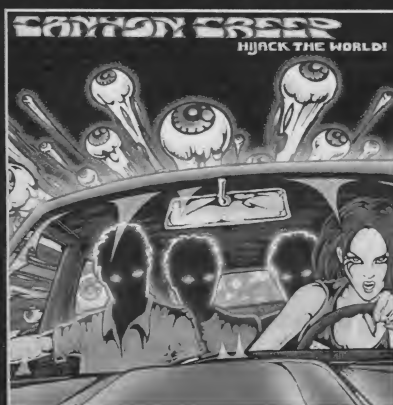
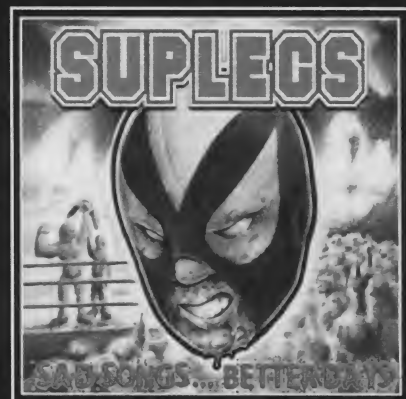
LOITS
„En Kahetsa Midagi“ Cass LP
Self Released

This is the debut of LOITS from Estonia. The band exists for 2 years but I am sure that its members have been involved in other projects previously as the 11 songs mirror the guys' routine perfectly! Dynamic and solid in sound yet full of gloomy in moments, „En Kahetsa Midagi“ is a must-have for everyone who is into fast and obscure Black Metal! And I doubt not that LOITS sounds not less smashing on stage too - the band has played with colleagues such as BORKNAGAR, M - ETERNAL, MANATARKA, THARAPHITA, etc. Contact: lambeth@hotmail.ee

Vanya Marinova

HEAVIER THAN THOU SUPLECS

Nawlin's born and inbred mud slingers Suplecs and their resin rock masterpiece. Like a THC trip down a 1970's rock n' roll highway.

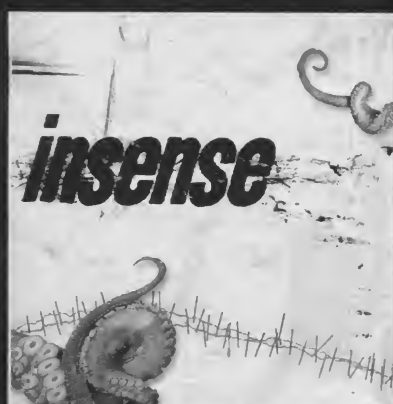
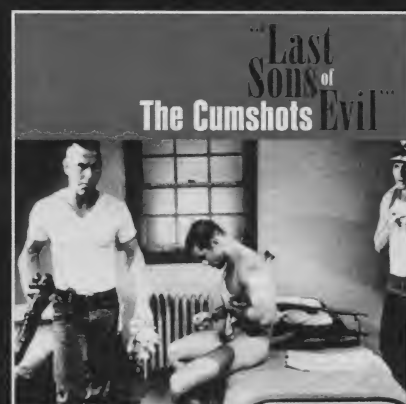


CANYON CREEP

San Francisco's groove rock kings and their critically acclaimed debut. Produced by the stoner god-like Billy Anderson.

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Spite Extreme Wing

Alaf Sa Fena!

When I got the debut album of SPITE EXTREME WING I thought I would hear powerful gory Death Metal, as this band features Argento on guitars and vocals; and this guy is very well known for his work with the Italian Death Metal band ANTROPOFAGUS. However, I was wrong, because the style of SPITE EXTREME WING had nothing to do with the band mentioned above. It is fucking fast and eerie Black Metal with some esoteric topics in their lyrics. So read this interview with Argento the Arcane Enchanter if you would like to get acquainted with the very essence of SPITE EXTREME WING!

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

-Could you say what S.E.W. deals with both musically and lyrically...Some more clue of what you are about, please?

SPITE EXTREME WING do render a journey through music; my being towards the Victory in the inner spiritual war, in order to win the external war. A travel which sees gigantic mountains topped by ice, infinite oceans which hide ancient worlds crowded by tentacular creatures, ancient forests of living, menacing trees, skies painted with stars that are darker than Algol herself, and crypts, and Gods, and grand battles, and songs which are as light as the air and sweet like fresh hydromel, I have seen aeons pass by... My soul lived as ten thousands! All of this has been ... is and will be - cause for inspiration... and result of inspiration herself.

-"Magnificat"...sounds strange to me as a title: what urged you to call your CD so?

Thanks to such title, the CD acquires sacredness and religious connotations. A word that, moreover, already inhabited the kingdom of music... I can't tell any further, you have to find by yourselves the strong tie between the title and my music...

-Being in ANTROPOFAGUS and being part of a Black Metal project currently...do you feel any difference in being yourself?

ANTROPOFAGUS do unleash the disgust for the scum which obstacles my exterior war; they renegade this chaotic life of mine, in a world that has reached it's "Dissolution Age", to paraphrase MALOMBRA's Mercy. SPITE EXTREME WING, instead, put the magnificence of my spiritual voyage into music.

-Black Metal seems to be getting more and more trendy lately, don't you feel embarrassed that you might be considered as too commercial nowadays?

No, I don't care about these chats...let people listen to the "Magnificat", and then judge by themselves...

-Do you take this project seriously? I mean, have you thought of touring, etc...is SPITE EXTREME WING to stay inflexibly as a Metal project?

I founded SPITE EXTREME WING before forming ANTROPOFAGUS. Up to last year, I dedicated more time to S.E.W. than to ANTROPOFAGUS. Now, to me they have the same importance. My groups are not projects, but facts!

-I find SPITE EXTREME WING's philosophy and ideas strange but still intriguing...

This is a compliment. It's the effect I wish to create into everybody. My "Philosophy" is I and whatever which gravitates around me. That's why I won't speak specifically about it now, whoever wishes to be inebriated by it shall find a fountain to quench one's thirst to in "Magnificat". Expressing philosophy, and not doing it, means to be SELF and GREAT!

-You sound very fast but kinda straightforward at the same time...

Undoubtedly, SPITE EXTREME WING do play sheer Black Metal. But there are some differences between us and the other Italian bands: we do not play for emulation; we do not feel tied to any stylistic cliché; we interiorize and externalize feelings and emotions probably very similar to the ones felt and expressed by the ones who INVENTED the genre. We are so. We perfectly fit into the canons of such genre without copying anybody, we are original but classical at the same time... We are this way!

-Did you have any financial problems while recording the very album? I have heard that life in Italy is expensive at many points...

No problems at all. We are very satisfied with our faithful studios and the funds that Beyond... Prod puts at our disposal. We do not want any Abyss Studios or similars!

-Now when so many people regard Black Metal as being dead...What do you think you could be distinguished for, do you believe that there are fields in BM yet untrodden?

All is over, there is no hope left. There are just many ignorant and aimlessly diehard fans: they think that they will listen to screaming vocals and buzzing guitars for their whole life. Black Metal is alive if the attitude is alive, all the rest is worthless.

-Are you into alchemy really?

No, but I do follow and discover the alchemists of our times. For example, one of them is Scott Sturgis of Converter: from cacophonous noise he succeeds in creating music!

-Any esoteric authors whom you could recommend? I heard you are into stuff like that...

I may advice one thing to the young: let Crowley alone, read Evola instead (but remember, you have to find the way by yourselves...). I tell you: look at esotericism as a personal treasure of yours, only you can initiate yourselves, be self-taught and alone. Remember: to be self-taught is to be alone!

-I hope ANTROPOFAGUS ain't no dead...

We die and born again each day, eaten by ourselves we mutate our external form to better express this shitty dissolution age!

-Have you ever thought that Hollywood should be burnt down just because of that "holy" aspect? By the way, what do you think about Hollywood?

"Here we go again: the same old lies again, the empty words again, the pigs can fly again. From Wall Street to your heart Neon Hollywood lights the dark Hear the bleating of the sheep At the jokes of a media creep And there's nothing I can say" (From the lyrics of "Media" by Sol Invictus)

-I feel really curious about your attitude towards the pope...Have you ever thought of creating a (loathe) song dedicated to him?

No, I do not care.

-Your own viewpoint concerning religion?

...I then took religion abreast. The renewal. I told Heinz. It must be accompanied by religious fervour. Are we perhaps religious? I asked him. Never on Earth! Yet I told him seriously what really pushes us is a feeling of religious origin. We are not believers, now, but we do seek the faith. We must become believers! I insisted. And I started going to churches: The evangelical and the catholic one. From the synagogue, they threw me out. I let myself conquered by the sound enthusiasm of Paulskirche preacher, I felt the thrill of the divine mystery at the Dome's solemn mass, I inquired the Sun, on the Taunus, with blonde teens, I discussed with young fanatics of all confessions, I landed to Nietzsche, I was despairing, I got drunk. I convinced myself it needed to get over Nietzsche!... (Taken from "PROSCRITTI" of Ernst Von Salomon.)

-Future plans regarding both SPITE EXTREME WING and ANTROPOFAGUS?

We are entering the studios with ANTROPOFAGUS in a month, to record our second full-length. A re-release is also scheduled: "No Waste Of Flesh" totally remastered, with a different intro, a live track, three tracks remastered from the unreleased demo, and two live videos! About SPITE EXTREME WING: we already have a new album composed, I wish we may enter the studios in March.



the underground

IMPERIAL FETTERCODE

Promo 2001* Promo CD-R
Self Released

Here is another band coming from the Czech Republic and referred to the hyper fast Grind Core genre. The band members have resorted to the use of a drum machine and I can understand that - there just ain't no such a skillful drummer in this world who would be capable of playing so damn fast! This promo is highly recommendable for all those who are into really extreme music!

Diliana Ivanova

EMETICA

"Sanguinem Menstruationis Amicae" Demo Tape
Self Released

Aw, another cool band with Death / Grind influences! I could also discuss some Hard Core and Punk touches (EMETICA's vocalist Miroslav has "warned" in his letter that the drummer plays in a Punk band as well...). The demo itself will literally floor you down with its vehement relentlessness. Second that, the 3 songs on "Sanguinem..." are real paragons of adrenalin and versatility and this is quite explainable since the EMETICA members have been playing music for a long time and are currently involved in other projects as well namely CONDOLENCES, MRS. BAKERS RUSTY FART and HATERS. Great job, neighbours (EMETICA hail from Serbia)! Can't wait to hear some more from ya...

Band address: Miroslav Curic, Sretna Mladenovica 3/52, Sloba, YUGOSLAVIA
Vanya Marinova

NECROSE

Promo 2001* CD-R
Self Released

Apparently these guys have had the good will of creating something but they don't seem to be skilful enough yet... I could feel this most clear in the drumming that sounds rather inconsistent. As for the genre orientation, NECROSE play Death Metal (with incredibly trivial riffs). Check this promo out though if you're curious...

Diliana Ivanova

SYLVA MALA

"Same" Demo CD-R
Self Released

This band has been formed in 1997 in Naples, Italy. What I heard from its promo CD was Death / Black Metal with melancholically catchy acoustic moments and skilful drum performances. Yet another plus was the decent sound quality. Otherwise, I couldn't say that I haven't heard releases in this vein before... Still, this is barely SYLVA MALA's first ever recording so things may change in the future! It was very interesting to read where the band's name comes from - in the Middle Ages the same way has been called a wood that extended from Vesuvius to the seaside.

Contact: Sylvala@hotmai.com

Vanya Marinova

ISOLATED

"Descent Of The Cross" Promo CD-R
Self Released

This band definitely intrigued me with its rather good ideas and performances. ISOLATED sound much alike CANNIBAL CORPSE stylistically, by the way and I can't wait to hear their debut! The only thing that didn't appeal to me was its vocals themselves - I think this band would have sounded even better with deeper grunts.

Diliana Ivanova

MISERY

"Guerreros de Muerte" CD-R
Self Released

Wow, what I heard from this Ecuadorian outfit was far from bad! The MISERY quartet has been founded in 1997 and "Guerreros de Muerte" ("Warriors Of Death") is their first demo. Thus, it offers 3 tracks of relentlessly raw Death Metal with slight Thrash touches. The only component that didn't appeal to me was the vocals themselves that sounded like coming from a leagan or something... Anyway, it was cool to hear of another band hailing from South America - the motherland of some of the most awesome acts to me related to the World's Extreme Metal Scene namely SEPULTURA, SARCOPHAGO, PENTAGRAM, MYSTIFER, DEVASTACION, MORTEM, PURGATORY, OSSUARY and... (quantity) MISERY! I hope!

Contact: aknot_kul@guerreros.com

Vanya Marinova

AT DEATH'S DOOR

Promo 2002* CD-R
Self Released

I have been coming across many French bands lately and AT DEATH'S DOOR is the serial one. For now at least this outfit sounds very promising and I already feel curious to hear some more. The genre which AT DEATH'S DOOR are related to is Death Metal basically and I liked these low tuned growls a lot!

Diliana Ivanova

INKBLACK

"The Palest Attack In Black" Promo CD-R
Self Released

I was totally finished after I gave this CD a listen! "The Palest Attack In Black" (and what a decent name for a release like this indeed!) contains 9 tracks of utterly severe and hostile Death Metal the sound of which will certainly make you shit in your pants! Second that, the quality is just marvelous (the album has been recorded at Excess Studio in Rotterdam) and the CD layout is a paragon of cold elegance laced morbidity (Marcel de Jong). Great job at all points!

Contact: inkblack2000@hotmail.com

Vanya Marinova

DESPISE

"Confinement In Decrepitude" Promo CD-R
Self Released

Another band from the Czech Republic... I bet you have all guessed what DESPISE might be then dealing with namely extremely brutal Grind Core! The "Confrontation" cover (PYREXIA) is a pretty eloquent clue anyway... I repeat DESPISE as an incredible band that deserves the attention of every Extreme Metal fan!

Web: http://www.despise.webpark.cz

Diliana Ivanova

GODLESS

"Let There Be Darkness" CD-R
Self Released

This Greek act has been existing since 1994 and save this promo CD its discography features a couple of demos namely "Downfall Of The Religions" (96) and "Massacre And Holocaust" (97). Never heard of them before anyway but "Let There Be Darkness" sounds pretty monotonous to me. It was only the growl impure and the intriguing band logo that caught my attention from this Death Metal piece.

Vanya Marinova

EXHUMED DAY

Promo 2002* CD-R
Self Released

EXHUMED DAY hail from Spain and what they play is supposed to be Death Metal or something... Refrige merely shines with its chaotic sound and doesn't seem to be accorded with the drum parts at all... After mayhem! Second that, the production is repulsive, the sound literally raps my ear drums with its terrible quality. As for the vocal parts, they are enormously monotonous and exceedingly throaty at the same time - this dude must have wasted a lot of energy for nothing in my opinion.

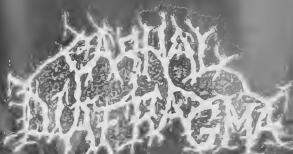
Diliana Ivanova

cerebral turbulency



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The Polish Gore Grind Masters Are Back

Many people have asked me about the name of the most extreme band that I have ever listened to! Answering a question like this is a really difficult task especially when you have come across numerous brutal acts many of which offering total shit, by the way! But if it comes to original and worth hearing outfits I would certainly mention SQUASH BOWELS. Hell yeah, these sickness-bringing, Gore Grind freaks from Poland play really fast and brutal music and they are already a legend in the world Underground Scene by their numerous split releases and two wonderful albums. So, I finally had the chance to do an interview with this cool band and here are their answers! Bon appetit!

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

-Let's start the interview from the beginning, when did you form the band, your first steps etc...

The band was formed in the beginning of 1994 and in the same year our first demo "Fur Gott" was recorded, it wasn't my first band because I was playing before that in bands called KORPUS and REPRORATE, but the style was completely different than that of SQUASH BOWELS. We were listening to many bands like REGURGITATE, DEAD INFECTION, IMPETIGO, TERRORIZER, MAPALM DEATH, CARCASS etc. but from the beginning we were doing our own style Gore Grind...

-Do you remember your first live appearance? Yes I remember it, it was in 1994 with DEAD INFECTION in our town, there was over 500-600 people, these were very old times, but I have very good feelings about it.

-In the last 6-7 years you released plenty of tapes, vinyls and split CDs. Which of them are still available and where could they be found?

We have released a lot of stuff and plenty of them are still available; the split CD with MALIGNANT TUMOUR, our first CD "Trybital" and the second "The Mass Rotting - The Mass Sickness", everything on Obscene Records. At the end of the year there will be released a CD with demos since '94/'95 and '96 with bonus unreleased songs and 2 songs from our new promo 2002. The whole CD will be called "For Dead God - International Devastation".

-Why did you release your debut album so late (5 or 6 years after SQUASH BOWELS was formed actually)? SQUASH BOWELS has always been an Underground group and we weren't thinking about releasing a CD, we got a proposition from Obscene Productions in 1999 and we decided to accept it. Up to this day we were fulfilled with releasing 7" EPs and tapes. Before the first CD we had a proposition from Lowland Records but the label had some problems and they didn't release it.

-Now I am listening to your second album! It seems that you have slightly changed your style but still you have kept that killing speed and sickness...Tell us something about the new record, you know what I mean!

Stylistically SQUASH BOWELS has always been into Gore Grind but the first album was some kind of a project of old members, even the split CD was totally into Gore Grind and I think the second album is a continuation of what SQUASH BOWELS

had played before. Next album will be in the same Gore Grind vein for sure.

-Your opinion about the Techno Gore Grind style that seems to be very popular lately...

If I would like to play Techno Gore Grind I would stay at home and plug computer and record song by song. I prefer normal live up with a real drummer who will show what he can do. I have nothing against that because there is a lot of bands playing with automat but the best would be only the band with a normal live up.

-SQUASH BOWELS and Obscene Productions... is your cooperation with this (great!) Czech label okay?

Curby has got very good promotion in Underground, he does everything to promote his bands and releasing a lot of good bands. He is holding the whole Czech Underground scene. Our cooperation is going very well and we're very glad of that. At this time everything is fine, life goes on...

-You could come across Gore Grind bands from Poland very seldom lately... As though most of the bands in your country take course to the Death Metal genre, perhaps VADER's success has some influence here...What do you think?

The Polish scene is different than the European, in Poland there are many Death Metal labels, and Gore Grind is more into Underground than Death Metal I think. On the other side, we are not interested to be fucking rockstars, we don't want to have many people interested in our music. Better have 50 great fans that 500 people who only came to the concert for watching us without listening. Maybe the situation will change after the last CD.

-I remember yet another band from your hometown namely the legendary DEAD INFECTION! I haven't heard from them for years anyway... Do you know what is going on with them? Are you close friends, by the way?

Yes, we are very old friends. In some time there was Tocha's and Jaros' project COFFEE GRINDER, and this was some kind of a continuation of DEAD INFECTION. SPINELESS was also a project of Cyjan but at this time there is nothing new to hear from them. Perhaps Cyjan will reactivate DEAD INFECTION but not with the old members, good luck though.

-How is the life in Poland now? How is your Underground scene? Do you have the opportunity to play live often, do you have good clubs where you can play and what do you think about the Polish fans?

Poland have got not too much fans of Grind Core, a lot of people doing something connected with Grind Core in Poland are doing it only because now it's so popular in the world. They don't understand the true Underground. Here is very big supe-

riority of America style Death Metal bands and also Black and Gothic. The Polish scene is a commercial scene. We don't play too much in Poland, Polish metalheads do not differentiate Grind Core from Punk. We are only people and we play music, we're not into any subculture...

-The big Metal magazines still pay too small attention to the Gore Grind bands in my opinion! Unlike the fans, their interest keeps on growing, we especially are being asked for CDs and any info about bands like yours, COCK AND BALL TORTURE, DISGORGE (Mexico), etc. What do you think this interest is sicker and more brutal acts is owing to?

We know that the big magazines are not interested in Gore Grind bands, but we see that interest grows bigger day by day, it's because people are choosing by their own what they want to listen to, even the big magazines are giving them good advertisements of their crappy bands from very good, big and rich labels. Underground is back like in '90!

-Why did you name your last album "Mass Rotting - The Mass Sickness"? What makes a musician see reliable inspiration sources in brutality and disgust?

Our inspirations goes straight out from life, life is brutal and sometimes very disgusting, I think everybody knows that. We don't need to be into some fake gods like Satan and other shit.

-What is your fave SQUASH BOWELS record and why?

"The Mass Rotting - The Mass Sickness", because of the best live up I ever had, now everyone in the band knows what he must play, they are not fucking rockstars. They listen to almost every kind of music and they are open minded, there are no squabbles around us and we know how to talk to each other and we do not have to make any compromises.

-I know some maniacs who listen only to Gore Metal and nothing else! Isn't it a bit tedious to stick to one genre only? By the way, I would be glad to learn what your preferences in the field of music are...

We answered on this question but I can say that we are not only into Gore Metal, we listen to also music that fits our needs for example: Punk Rock, Death Metal, Heavy Metal, Black Metal and true Gothic stuff like SISTERS OF MERCY and FIELDS OF THE NEPHELEUM, Industrial and Ambient like SWANS, ALIEN SEX FIEND etc.

-Are you interested in policy? How do you see Poland in the EU?

We are not interested in politics because it is really big shit for us. It is a very long way for Poland to get into the EU, I don't have my own word on it.

-I suppose you have been asked for your Top 5 of most favourite bands so I will ask about your Top 5 instead...

The last CD of DEICIDE, the new CRYPTOPSY, the last album of MORBID ANGEL, the new DEPECHE MODE and the last CD of ROT...

-Have you played at this year's Obscene Extreme festival? I hope it was a great fest!

Yes, we have played there but with a new line up, it was also great for us to see a lot of fans of our band. The show was totally crazy, we have done everything what we could to do for very extreme set.

-Your opinion about IMPETIGO? Are they really the first Gore Grind band?

Yeah, I think so... they were great, but then there were also a lot of good Gore bands like DEAD INFECTION, REGURGITATE, GORE BEYOND NECROPSY (when they were playing Gore Grind), C.U.M. and stuff like that.

-I hope you have some new tracks ready to blast the fans... Do you have plans for a new record?

Yes, we plan a new record for the next year, there will be songs from our new promo but recorded once again and a lot of new extreme tracks in our disgusting way. The new CD will be more extreme and disgusting than "The Mass Rotting - The Mass Sickness" for sure.

-OK, we are at the end of the interview. What would you like to tell to your fans?

Thank a lot for this interview, we would like to give a special thank you to our big fans who have been with us through all these years, We will keep it FUCKING GORE!!!

the underground

WITCHCRAFT

"Witchcraft" 7" EP
PRIMITIVE ART

Well, this band got me...really! Awesome BLACK SABBATH influenced music with a heavy psychedelic sound... Similar again to the first BLACK SABBATH album, but with me it can never go wrong! I need more music by these great musicians, I regret it is that short! Moody, heavy, melodic and true... and the productions is great-sounding as if recorded back in 1971 in a foggy English atmosphere... Ups!

hallo Tordin

CARCINOSI

"Drowned Through The Portal Of War" Promo CD-R
Self Released

These Brazilians definitely deserve your attention as they appear to be among the few bands that have done their best by recording their promo material in a good studio and offering the very CD with a cool layout. What CARCINOSI directed to stylistically brutal Death Metal performed with a great deal of insight and adroitness! Check 'em out! Web: <http://www.carcinosi.com.br>

Diliana Isakova

OBSCURE

"Global Obscurity" 7" EP
Self Released

A Greek band on an English label. Well, they will soon do a split 7" EP with SORE THROAT, and this one is damn interesting. But there is something wrong with the record - first it is said 33, but it is obviously on 45 rpm. Then the media can not play the last 1-2 minutes of each side, as they put too much on it (I guess). Musically it is a blend of...new school HC, older style doom Punk in the vein of AMEBIX, some Heavy Metal rhythms and I guess some more influences. An interesting band with nice lyrics. I would love to hear the new split and wish them a bright future, as they have the potential.

hallo Tordin

RESUSCITATION

"Inflection Of Insanity" Demo CD-R
Self Released

This Death Metal hails from Belgium and it offers nothing special on the whole. The music, although kinda monotonous, sounds pretty monumental, semi-like... The guys have used a drum machine but one could barely feel it. In short, "Inflection Of Insanity" shines with its nice coverwork and its quality is very good for a demo.

Diliana Isakova

CALLAHAN

"Art Of...Third Act Zero Two" Promo CD-R
Self Released

Strange title...I wonder what's the idea behind it. Concerning music, this Polish quintet strike with pretty technical Thrash / Power Metal carrying the spirit of classic bands like CORONER or ANNIHILATOR who dared to play non-standard heavy music in the end of the 80's. Rajmund Jelen's voice reminds me of KREATOR's Mille but in more Black Metal way. The guitar duo Wieslaw Wilczynski and Adam Michocki impressed me with faultless performance and virtuosic leads. The tempo is mid-paced and it wouldn't be bad if CALLAHAN made one or two faster songs. But the other things are ok so if you want to contact the band, here's their e-mail: callahan@interia.pl

Tsvetan Radchev

CADAVRE EYES

"No Time To Hasten" Promo CD-R
Self Released

This is the first Israeli Industrial / Grind band that I come upon. CADAVRE EYES is a one-man band, a project of David Opp who has previously played in BARBARA (never heard of them either). He delivers 20 songs of mad Grind performed only by drums, bass and samples which add the Industrial sound. David's vocals are close to Lee Dorian's voice on the "Scum" classic. The lyrics are pretty interesting revealing their author's point of view about modern society, relationship, death penalty, etc. The material is produced by Shavi Askin from the psychos TODAY IS THE DAY. This promo is only for true maniacs and if you're such one, write some lines to David: david@day-dream.com

Tsvetan Radchev

ARKENSTONE

"Arkenstone" LP
S.M.C. Records

Man, this is the worst possible torture ever created by human mind - to see dudes body up and make him listen ARKENSTONE's LP again and again. I take this as a joke which starts with the info sheet where the band is proclaimed to be the "latest Black Metal legend" and continuing with the music which is simply a joke. It needs great sense of humour to put out something like that so I congratulate the Greek S.M.C. Records for their decision. Things shouldn't be taken so seriously right?

Tsvetan Radchev

STABWOUND

"Malicious Addiction" Demo CD-R
Self Released

I am not into grinding stuff that much on the whole but what I heard from these dudes was fuckin' great! The 4 tracks on the "Malicious Addiction" demo CD will simply make your head reel from banging as this piece will certainly NOT leave your player for 3 days! A smashing paragon of aggro and skill with a killer sound quality - Sweden will be Sweden!! Web: <http://listen.to/stabwound>

Vanya Marinova

BAALPHEGOR

"The End Of Descent" Promo CD-R
Self Released

I liked this band definitely! What it offers is 3 tracks of awesome Death Metal achieved by incredibly thick riffing that literally drags you down with gratuitous uncompromisingness, exclusively diverse drumming and hostile gurgling guttural Deathbangers, you MUST hear this!

Vanya Marinova

ETERNAL DAMNATION

"The End Is Near" Promo Demo CD-R
Self Released

ETERNAL DAMNATION come from Mexico and this demo should attract musicians' attention because it's talented Death / Black Metal influenced from other styles. The first song (I'm sorry I don't have the titles) starts with IRON MAIDEN-like tunes and the whole demo has much classic heavy influence in it. ED's music has much of the legendary Swedish Death / Black Metal sound, the melodic aggression of AMON AMARTH, DARK TRANQUILITY. The guys definitely know how to play their instruments and have enough talent to create memorable songs. I liked the bass lines of Arturo - very clean and technical performance. The vocals of Adrian change with no problem from deep deadly growls to high-pitched screams. There's a female voice in two songs but the girl's name isn't written on the cover. The sound is good for a demo recording so we have all preconditions for one good demo release. Unfortunately there's not a street address or an e-mail pressed on the back let and I can't tell you how to get in touch with them.

Tsvetan Radchev



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Sumerian Daemons (CD/2LP)

The best Metal album to emerge from Greece so far. It has been recorded in Fredman Studios and surely is a must for everyone into Dimmu Borgir, Samael, Therion and old Paradise Lost... If you like bombastic dark metal, this is an album you cannot afford to miss!!!

BLOOD RED THRONE

BLOOD RED THRONE



Affiliated with the Suffering (Digi/CD/LP)

Perfectly executed Death Metal with hints of the classical sound produced by Deicide, Carnifal Corpse and Slayer. This one leaves no room to breathe, prepare yourself for the impact!!! The first edition digipack contains two bonus songs, oh and for the faint-hearted among us: if you don't like the sight of blood, stay away from this album...

HOT ITEMS



NECROPHOBIC

The Nocturnal Silence (CD/LP)



IMPIOUS

Deathsquad (MCD)



INFERNAL

Summon Forth the Beast (MCD)

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The Hordes Stood as One (CD/ 2LP)

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Dominion Reptilian (Digi/CD/LP)



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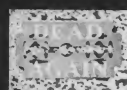
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BARD "FAUST" EITHUN

What is so fascinating
with the past itself
is that it is nothing but
past only (Oscar Wilde)

Time ago someone asked in Jester's messageboard what was the reason for praising Bard „Faust“ Eithun so much lately, what so unique has he done since neither his drumming nor his lyrics were that outstanding... Indeed, everyone has his / her point and just because I have got mine as well I couldn't help contacting EMPEROR's former drummer to discuss with him his lyrics for SIGH, ZYKLON and CADAVER INC - lyrics that literally stunned me with their depth and unique relentlessness! What this interview portrayed eventually was the shape of a young man with an attitude, with his back turned on the past lit by the flames of burning churches and faced with morose revelations.

VANYA MARINOVA

-I still remember the day when I read the „World Of Worms“ lyrics for a first time... Honestly speaking, they left me kind of perplex for a while in this sense that I started pondering over hundreds of things simultaneously... Very strong texts, congratulations! Did you meet any difficulties while being in a process of writing? What I mean is that „World Of Worms“ deals with really huge matters...

First of all, thanks for your compliments. To take the last thing first: no, I hardly ever meet difficulties with being in the process of writing. I mean, possible difficulties might occur when striving to find poetic angles and structures of the texts, but the mere inspiration and will to write comes easily to my mind when I look around in society. I am the human chameleon who hides in disguise, observing the mass of idiocy and mediocrity that floats by... simply.

„Nietzschean Conspiracy“ reminded me of a statement by Oscar Wilde a lot namely the one that „Religion is today's substitute of Faith“... By the way, how did it come to your lyrical contribution to SIGH?

Well, I always felt this link to SIGH, I guess it has something to do that their debut, „Scorn Defeat“, was released through DSP, Euronymous' label. I love that album and when I got access to the net I just dropped Mirai a mail and eventually we agreed that I should write him a text. I love the album the text is featured on as well. „Imaginary Sonicscape“ is an extremely strong album.

-Could „selfrestriction“ be a synonym of „fear“?

Maybe, but not necessarily. Self-restriction might come out of multiple causes, some maybe more based on fear than others. I think it could all depend on the situation.

-Which kind of pain do you view as most unbearable and hard to surmount - the physical or the psychic one? I know the answer for myself but I merely thought that the Brutalica readers would be interested in knowing your point...

I think that is also somewhat according to the situation. Sure, physical pain might be heavy to bear but so does severe physical pain. The one might come with the other.

-Do you believe in reincarnation and, in case you do, who / what would you like to be in your next life?

I don't believe in the archetype notion of reincarnation. For me it doesn't seem to be fitting with the rational world we live in, but I think that humans can sometimes serve as channels for something abstract and / or incomprehensible.

„The roaring of lions, the howling of wolves, the raging of the stormy sea, and the destructive sword, are portions of

eternity too great for the eye of man“ - do you agree with this excerpt from W. Blake's „Proverbs of Hell“?

Yeah well, I often sometimes come to the conclusion that I have seen sights too great for my eye. It's often in connection with personal visualization and concrete visual pieces of reality.

-As if mankind is subordinate to selfdestruction rather than to selfpreservation... How would you explain this yourself?

It doesn't need to be explained, it's just to see around yourself. Selfpreservation is for animals who have the procreation instinct. Self-destruction is for man who has a megalomania ego-centered personality, leading to the demise for us all.

-Does the fact that the Nobel Peace Prizegiving Ceremony takes place in your country make you feel proud of being born and raised in Norway or do you regard the very event as kind of irrelevant and (even) ironic for the world we live in?

The event has hardly anything else than a small symbolic meaning, especially when the price is given to notorious terrorists. It's almost like „ok, just think about all the people these terrorists did not kill. Let's give them the Nobel Price of Peace for that“ I don't care about the Nobel Peace ceremony. It's just a play for the audience; giving people the impression that somebody actually cares... while they don't.

-What do you think about globalization? „You'll never be alone again“ - this very excerpt from „Zyklon“ gave birth to the question itself...

Globalization is difficult to approach I think. It helps us more than we think, through the world of multimedia especially but I also think the increasing degree of globalization ... in all aspects ... is a fearful development. The sentence you referred to is inspired by Aldous Huxley's novel „Brave New World“ where globalization has removed every part of individuality and every aspect of enjoying a lone moment. I find satisfaction in my own company and can't stand the thought of constantly being a bigger and bigger part of a whole; a whole that removes individual freedom and integrity.

-I feel I am to become a real trespasser with this but still I can't help asking: what made you choose the name of Goethe's personage for your pseudonym? Do you believe in the name power?

The name „Faust“ was merely thought of as a reaction against all the people who took a quick look in the Satanic Bible and created a pseudonym from there. I wanted some-

thing I could relate to and something that people would notice. The medieval character, Dr. Faust, is a myth that went through Europe during the renaissance, and the first book about this person was written in 1587 by Johan Spies. Goethe is but one among many who approached the character. I think the name suits me better than I first expected. Like the Doctor, I enjoy pushing boundaries and eventually that made me burn my fingers. Experience costs, doesn't it?

-What kind of literature are you into lately?

Since I have several years behind me at the University at Oslo there is naturally a lot of books related to that in my collection but I also like good novels, and anything else that gives me a kick.

-How about your current musical preferences? Do you miss the early 90's sometimes and what do you think about DARKTHRONE's or MAYHEM's latest releases?

I am into a lot of different styles of Metal; as well as some 70ties music, soundtracks, pop-music from the 80ties and so on. My musical preferences are wide. Too difficult to pinpoint certain bands. I cannot relate to the releases from DARKTHRONE any longer since they mean nothing to me. I think their best work is „Soulside Journey“, „A Blaze In The Northern Sky“ and „Goatlord“ without vocals. MAYHEM are pretty progressive and I like their last album but I reckon their new one will be rawer and simpler.

-Do you still contact EBONSIGHT? Years ago I came across their second demo tape the cover of which included a list with the names of people who have ever shown interest in the band. And I saw your name too...

No, it's several years since the contact with that band.

-I've always had the feeling that drummers (in general), although being the TRUE band batteries, stand in vocalists' or guitarists' shadows pretty often... Is there something like that indeed?

Well, I think that drummers usually get the attention they deserve. There is a huge amount of great drummers today and they are well treated I think. I usually say that a band is not better than their drummer, which eventually leave the drummer with a great responsibility in a band.

-How do you see „the new world“ that „will rise once and for all“?

I don't know. There is a difference between the apocalyptic vision I have of it and the realistic human-made version of it. As for the latter, it's probably fucked up like anything man create.

the underground

SHAMBLES

„Perish Of God“ Promo CD-R
Self-Released

I was quite excited when I received that promo from our editor-in-chief because I thought that this was the Bulgarian Death Metal project SHAMBLES. Unfortunately I was wrong - these SHAMBLES are from Thailand and deliver one of the worst played „pure unholy Black Metal“ I've ever heard. Usually I don't write negative reviews but this thing here is awful - bad demo sound, riff off riffs, lack of musical skills and on the top of this some moronic mumbling pretending to be vocals. I'm glad to see that there's an Underground movement in Thailand but if all their bands are like this one... Anyway if you're a diehard fan of Black Metal demos from exotic places, here's the e-mail: shambles666@hotmail.com

Tsvetan Radin

TWILIGHT OPHERA

„Promo 2001“ CD-R
SAGITTARIUS

As far as I realized, this promo features 3 tracks from the 3rd album of TWILIGHT OPHERA which should be on the market already as the release date mentioned in the info sheet is August 2002. What I heard from this Finnish symphonic Black Metal act reminded me of earlier ARCTURIUS and today's DIMMU BORGIR. What the songs shine with basically is the mystically dark keyboard melodies and the melodic vocal parts. Not devoid of catchiness definitely but not that intriguing either in my opinion. Web: <http://www.twilight-ophera.net>

Vanya Marinova

VALINOR

„It Is Night“ Promo CD
Self-Released

This promo is just a pleasure for the ears! Poland's VALINOR have created nine majestic compositions which take the listener to another world of emotions and pleasures. From a first listening VALINOR reminds of THERION with their symphonic Metal but after some more listens I found many other elements. The singer Jakub Glib uses his voice in many different aspects - he can sing high and elegantly or to scream Black Metal-like, or to sound just like TIAMAT's John Edlund in the song „It Is Night“. It's not easy to label VALINOR's sound - it varied with influences from many styles like Heavy / Power Metal, Epic / Folk Metal, Death, Black... Besides, the main musicians there are guested by female singers, keyboardists, there's even a flutist... All these elements are combined in perfect way and the result is this stunning CD-R. It's about time VALINOR receive some serious attention from any labels and to become at least as big as THERION are these days. For contacts use: Valinor1@poezia.onet.pl

Tsvetan Radin

THE END

„Speedcore Metal Hell“ Demo CD-R
FORGOTTEN WISDOM

Hailing from France, this two-piece Black / Death act offers 10 tracks of its disharmony and fury. I have the feeling that The Butionist and Infernal have had a drum computer during the recording process but one couldn't know for sure but the guys themselves, right? Anyway, „Speedcore Metal Hell“ sounds exclusively tedious and you could barely hear the vocals! Still I managed to associate them with squeals from a stabbed pig... Ultimately, this KOVENANTISH plan for a CD cover really did me in, laughter! Web: <http://www.mutimania.com/butionist>

Vanya Marinova

DIVINE RAPTURE

„Promo CD-R
Self-Released

Some time ago I heard about DIVINE RAPTURE but this is the first CD which I have the chance to listen. The promo includes three songs engineered and produced by Erik Rutan so if you haven't already guessed DR deliver fast, brutal, cal Death Metal influenced by the legends MORBID ANGEL and DEicide. These three pieces won't disappoint any fan of the above mentioned cult bands. The sound is very professional, my only remark is that I can't hear any bass, maybe there's no such instrument in this recording? DR have much to offer and I'll buy their next CD for sure - such talented Death Metal bands are rarely in today's Underground. For contacts: info@divinerapture.net

Tsvetan Radin

LOST SOULS CRY

„The Forthcoming Chaos“ Demo CD-R
Self-Released

This demo dates since 2001 and contains 5 tracks of defiantly aggressive Black Metal with subtle Death Metal touches. The sound quality is very good and its cover artwork shines bright with its cold, futuristic elegance. As for Frank the Douwe (the person behind LSC), he has played in other bands before but as he started working upon his project since autumn 1999. Good beginning Holland! Contact: lostsoulscri@dolijn.nl

Vanya Marinova

KILLAMAN

„Promo 2002“ CD-R
Self-Released

Ladies and gentlemen, let me introduce you the latest project of Mr. Rikard „The Deranged“ - the devastating Swedish Thrash / Death Metal attack - KILLAMAN. Nice name, eh? After MURDER CORPORATION's split up, DERANGED's drummer Rikard started this project together with Johan (DERANGED) handling all guitars and bass and RECLUSION's vocalist Rune. KILLAMAN's sound is close to the brutal EXTREME NOISE TERROR / DISGUST sonority with its straightforward rhythm, heavy and simple riffs and throaty voice. This is total oldschool Death / Thrash Metal that creates vast mosh pits in concerts. If eagerly waiting for their full-length - this band is deadly dangerous and deserves your attention. Contact them at: Killamannow@hotmail.com

Tsvetan Radin

RAVENCULT

„Despise The Blindfold“ CD-R
Self-Released

Except for the mighty NECROMANTIA, Greece's Black Metal Scene has absolutely NOTHING to fascinate you with in my opinion! RAVENCULT merely recalled us to all that monotony surrounding the releases from bands out there. I will only mention as a clue of what this act is about that its music reminded me of VARATHRON to some extent. The only thing which „Despise The Blindfold“ delighted me with was the CD layout (Gustave Dore). Web: <http://come.to/ravencult>

Vanya Marinova

ART OF DARKNESS

„Mind Suicide“ Promo CD
Self-Released

ART OF DARKNESS is a young Italian band (created in 2000) and it offers melodic Death Metal. Well, the guys know how to play their instruments but their music isn't so original, there are melodic riffs in the vein of the Swedish masters like AT THE GATES, DISMEMBER, and numerous lyrical digressions. It's technical but nothing more. The sound is on a very high level, producer of the album is Tommy Talamanca (guitarist / keyboardist of SÄDIST). Having in mind that this is their second demo, I suppose ART OF DARKNESS will find their own sound in the future. If you like melodic Death Metal, contact them at: art.of.darkness@hotmail.com

Tsvetan Radin

SONIC METAL DESTRUCTION



FUNERAL INCEPTION "Anthems Of Disenchantment" CD

The new band formed by ex-Bloody Gore. Their musical concept is now way more complex, tight, aggressive, dark, heavy and diverse, yet still chaotically brutal and fast!



MORTEM "Death Is My Name" CD

2nd album of the best, most brutal and uncompromising band on the Russian underground scene. Expect a totally sick and intense Death Metal played with talent and ferocity!

ALSO AVAILABLE



HYPOKRAS "Dead & Hungry" CD

A new perverted and dark entity is now haunting the underground! A great amount of heavy and catchy guitar riffs with pounding drums and fairly deep, scouring grunt. Furious Death Metal with a killer production!



KRONOS "Titan's Awakening" CD

This is the type of Brutal Death Metal that will rip away your flesh on contact! An all-out onslaught of devastating brutality with clear, heavy as fuck production, wicked guitar riffing, mind-blasting drumwork and deep vocal roars!



DEPRAVED "Decadence & Lust" CD

Mauling and dismembering brutality that gorges and guts out body cavities with each listen. 12 new tracks of all sorts of perversions, sexual depravity and carnal bloodlust. A must for the brutal goreguys and gorewhores!

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Russia is about to show to the world its power in music too!!!

Last year we witnessed several rather successful breakthroughs from Russia. Try to remember TATU even - these two girls appeared a real sensation by becoming third in the European Top 20! Well, this is not so important, I think the more important fact is that I could notice a serious movement in Russia's Underground circles that logically lead to some bands' negotiations with highly respected labels from abroad! What I mean with this very interview though is getting you acquainted with a band (the mainman of which runs a label himself) that comes from one of the darkest pits of the Russian Underground and is the perfect example for this how, regardless the economic problems, something REALLY noticeable and amusing can be done when the sincere desire exists!

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

-Hello Michael! First of all I'd like to apologize that I didn't do this interview earlier but we have tons of requests from bands and labels and we of course do not have the possibility to do interviews with every band...

I see, thanks a lot for support, friend.

-Well, how are the things now in mighty Russia? I hope it is cold and dark - the best time for inspiration, right?!

Yes, finally it became cold here and, yes, dark too. I think in the eastern parts of Russia it's much more colder and darker than here in Kaluga for sure - neither electric power, nor coal is delivered there to make people living in warm flats and walking on the light streets in the evenings. I guess the people there are doomed to play the most brutal and hateful Black Metal in the world, ha-ha. I think Norway's Black Metalers are hiding in their warm flats during the cruel frosts while some Russian metalheads write their hymns of hate in frozen rooms. Anyway, the situation is not so hopeless and it might be that there will not be any snow in Russia soon. I witness Russian winters for 26 years and I must admit that the snow reduces here from year to year. I'm afraid it's the global phenomenon...

-Let us talk about CRYPTHOWL first and then I would like to hear some more about your label Oupiric Productions... OK? So, when did you form the band and what have you released till today (I hate this question already!!)?

Awaken from the sleep of the undead I started my project in 1997. The only release to be out is „Tragedies Beheld by the Cemetery“ MC with 35 min of atmospheric Black Horror Metal. -In my opinion your music is very close to the early CRADLE OF FILTH works. Do you agree with me that you play Gothic Black Metal?

Yes, I really like the early works of Cradles (not the latest ones) and I like to be compared with these supreme vampires of the 90s. As well as HECATE ENTHRONED which kick ass! I don't like today's CRADLE OF FILTH's status of rock stars - this is a betrayal of Black Metal and the Dark Art. I don't blame Cradles themselves, I speak against all this shit called music industry which transformed a cool band into clowns. This industry needs money, they don't care about music... Eh, well you may call my music Gothic Black Metal, no problem. But I swear the next album of CRYPTHOWL will be more evil and extreme with less melancholic parts.

-The „Tragedies Beheld By The Cemetery“ tape that you have sent to us is very promising but the sound is not very good. How much money do you think you need in order to record really qualitative material in any of Moscow's / Kaluga's best studios?

First of all let me tell you that Moscow and the rest of Russia are like two different states. I mean the prices and conditions of life there. Moscovites gain \$ 500 US per month while Kaluga's citizen's approximates to \$ 100 US. Thus the prices in studios differ. Kaluga's best studio? Heh, there is no studio in Kaluga good enough for a Metal band. In Moscow it's possible to record an album for approx. \$ 800 - 1000 US. May be less or more. It depends on the studio itself.

-By looking at the cover of the cassette I think your lyrics deal with a lot of vampiric subjects...

Yeah, just read the lyrics and you'll comprehend that they deal with various classical horror themes - gothic castles, old crypts and graveyards, madness, perverted love, obsession and suicide. Each song narrates a certain horror story. But there is no vampiric stuff here (the only vampiric motives here are my name and the ghoul near the tombstone on the MC cover ... it's just to create a certain horror gothic atmosphere). I've tried to write the realistic texts without any fairy tails. Human perverse and madness, the real things, are usually more evil than vampiric fantasies. Nevertheless, I wrote all these horror themes with a lot of mysterious atmosphere and I think musically CRYPTHOWL sounds like vampiric Black Metal.

-Do you like the taste of blood, ha - ha... I'm curious to know what did you use for your photo session...red paint or some kind of red juice...?

The taste and odour of blood is killer! I never waste even a drop of blood and that's why I used a red paint on the photo sessions. All blood I have in my possession I swallow immediately, ha-ha!

-Why are you two people involved in the band only? What can you tell us about your female singers Eugenia and Irena...?

They were just two session witches to do female vocals on the recording. Regarding the CRYPTHOWL's line up it features me on vocals and keys, Mervetz on guitars and Vurdalak on bass. Kaluga is not a big city and the youth here listens to pop music thus it's very hard to find some devoted Metal maniacs to complete a line-up. Another Kalugan band FESTERGUTS (I do vocals for them) suffers the same problem - their drummer and bass-guitarist are from other city, not from Kaluga.

-Hey man, I'm really into the coverversion that you have made of DEATH's „Evil Dead“. Does this mean that your musical tastes do not reduce to Black Metal only but you also listen to other Metal styles?!

You will be surprised - I'm really into cool Power Metal bands like NOCTURNAL RITES, WHITE SKULL, HAMMERFALL and Heavy Metal bands from the 80's - HELLOWEEN, KING DIAMOND, RUNNING WILD, etc. Besides, I listen to some good BM stuff and a few brutal Death / Grind bands. One more band to single out - the mighty VISCERAL EVISCERATION - unique and killer music! Regarding DEATH, yes, „Scream Bloody Gore“ was the first album to drive me nuts and make me discover the Death Metal style. Moreover, the songs on this album are really cruel, evil and fierce. One of the best albums ever! And the most evil, that's for sure! I like the „Evil Dead“ song very much and I decided that this piece of death will do for CRYPTHOWL to make a cover version. I made it as symphonic and blackish, as any other song of CRYPTHOWL sounds. Thus the cover version differs from the original song and I think this is right, otherwise there's no reason to record a cover if it copies the original.

-Do you have plans to release a really professional release of

CRYPTHOWL recorded in a professional studio and pressed on a CD format? Maybe it will be hard but maybe if there is any interest from labels you can do it.

Sure, the real musician should have plans like these. Otherwise he will not reach any good results. I will record a good sounding CD and release it. If no label (a worthy one) shows its interest in CRYPTHOWL, I'll release the stuff by myself through my label OUPIRIC Productions. The only problem is that I have a little free time to compose new songs.

-This year I received releases from many Russian bands. As though the Russian Underground starts moving...Tell us some more about Russia's Underground Scene - best bands, labels, studios, magazines, etc...

Yes, the Russians became more active, I don't know why, maybe this is due to a little bit economic stability set in Russia this year. Really don't know. Anyway we are numerous and we have a countless list of bands, labels, etc. We live in a huge country and our music market is not less than the whole Europe. Just wait a little and we will overflow the world with Russian Heavy Metal! As for the Metal acts from Russia, here go the meanest ones. Labels: Rest in Peace, More Hate, Blacksmith, Oupiric, Fatal Forum. Magazines: Dark City, Necronomicon, Painkiller, also the killer one from Belarus - M magazine (ex-Legion). Bands: ROSSOMAAHAR, BLACK COUNTERESS, FORGIVE-ME-NOT, TALES OF DARKNORD, SIEGED MIND, GRENOUER, GOTHIC SKY, FESTERGUTS, T.H.R.O.N., IZAKARON, WEEDS IN VOGUE, ASHEN LIGHT, SEVERNYE VRATA, BUTTERFLY TEMPLE, MORTEM, STONEHEDGE, RAKOTH, PSIOCYBE LARVAE, MISCREANT, tons more...

-Do you really like CRADLE OF FILTH? Or maybe you are a fan of the Scandinavian Black Metal wave?!

No, I'm not into Scandinavian BM. I like some symphonic Black Metal bands and sometimes it's cool to listen to primitive pure raw Black Metal. Regarding Cradles I like their first four albums (from „The Principle...“ till „Cruelty...“).

-Sometimes I can't help laughing when I happen to hear definitions like „Cold Black Metal from Mexico“ - this stated by people who have hardly seen snow in their lives and do hardly know what is cold like... Do you think that Russian winter is sufficient when it comes to inspiration for creating cold and dark music?

I'd better listen to good Metal band from sunny Mexico than a shitty stuff from wintry Russia. I mean that good music may be composed anywhere, even in Africa. The main thing is not the location, it's the people to be the main thing in composing music. And I think it's not right to think that the Russian frost is enough to make cool Black Metal music.

-Now let's talk about Oupiric Productions... What are the main goals of this Underground label?

It was found to support CRYPTHOWL by releasing its music on MC. But later it started releasing the cassettes of other good bands - SIEGED MIND (Rus), DYSANCHELY (Sk), GOTHIC SKY (Rus), FESTERGUTS (Rus), DENIAL OF GOD (Den), CAPITOLIUM (Ukr), ALGOL (USA), ATROPOS (Fra). I like releasing unknown bands and make them famous, it's like

making something to strengthen the Underground Metal scene. I want to promote Black and Horror Metal, this is my goal. I'm still waiting for promos from the bands playing the music of such a kind.

-I know you have released plenty of tapes but don't you think that it is time to release some of your bands' albums on a CD format?!

Yes, I do. The cassette is still the common format in Russia and some other countries but now I plan to penetrate into world's market with CDs. The first CD release is being prepared, the album of BLACK COUNTERESS, a Russian band playing Black Metal in the vein of Cradles', „Cruelty and The Beast“. Fucking killer music!

-Who are your main distributors and where a fan can buy your products from?

I have some local Underground distributors in almost every country with Metal scene. Most of them are small Underground mailorders. If to speak about Bulgaria, there are Brutalica Records, Counter Attack and PIG HOUSE Records to distribute my stuff for now.

-I hear also that you have released a Video Compilation! What is it about and what level is its quality in?

Unfortunately it's still not completed but soon it will be finished. It's a sampler of various videos from the bands released through Oupiric Productions. The quality might be professional, 'cause I work on TV and have all necessary equipment to make pro video, but the problem is that bands themselves can't make a professional shootings. Some of them live far from Russia and naturally I can't go there to film their interviews professionally. Thus I have to edit some non-professional videos professionally. So it will be 50 per cent pro done video.

-I'm just curious: have you played live since you are only two members in the band? Haven't you thought of adding a real drummer?... I mean, haven't you dreamt of being a 100% real band?

It's my dream since the very first drop of blood spilled by CRYPTHOWL. But as I admitted earlier it's almost unreal to find good musicians here in Kaluga. Anyway, we are ready to play live with the help of a drum machine. The horror show is being prepared now so await the pure red dripping madness on our concerts.

-Your plans for 2003 both with CRYPTHOWL and Oupiric Productions?!

For CRYPTHOWL it's to find some time to compose a new album, for Oupiric Productions - to release the new MC of CAPITOLIUM, MC / CD of BLACK COUNTERESS and to put out some evil pure Black Metal acts on MCs. Also I intend to transform my catalogue METAL - V MASSY into a real pro-done magazine. The first issue is out now.

-Which of the bands released by Oupiric Prods have the best potential to do something really big and remarkable?

I think it's CAPITOLIUM - the only trouble that it's a very young band with no experience. But they write cool music and have a good taste in artwork and design. They play grim symphonic Black Metal with tons of great melodious passages and fast drumming (drum machine). I would like to say that BLACK COUNTERESS has the best potential, but their music is similar to CRADLE OF FILTH (fortunately it reminds me of their old works like „Cruelty And The Beast“). And I must single out FESTERGUTS - they play perverted symphonic(!) gore(!) brutal Death / Black (!!!) Metal with female backing vocals. This is absolutely unique music I think. One guy bought their tape „Bloodsoaked“, he liked it and asked me to find in my huge catalogue something like FESTERGUTS. I couldn't find something similar... DENIAL OF GOD from Denmark is the most famous band among Oupiric names and they need no comments - fucking Black Horror Metal!

-Thank to TV, we witnessed Chechens' blast in Moscow several weeks ago...What do you think about the war in Chechnya and how do you think the problem (s) could be solved out there?

I think this is a problem without solution. Besides the complexity of the conflict, there are a lot of people (Muslim radicals of the world, Russian officials making money on war in Chechnya, etc.) interested in growing on of a conflict there. The only solution is hidden in changing of peoples' mentality. The war has 200 years history and it's impossible to break it down in a few years. Being a historian (I'm finishing my research work on Kashmir's conflict of India and Pakistan - the same hard-to-solve problem) I know that such problems have no easy and fast solutions.

-OK, Michael, that's all from me. Do you have something to add? I wish all the best to you and your band and label anyway...

Thanks a lot, Chavdar! Hope you like my replies and all metalheads reading this killer mag have a chance to get to know more about CRYPTHOWL and the Russian scene. Also I send a big hail to all Bulgarian Slav brothers - maybe one day we will become a united state, he-he. And let the blood flow eternally to feed the creatures of the dark! The blood is a life!



KAOS RISING

WELCOME TO THE VIOLENCE
AVAILABLE NOW



We play brutal death metal with anti-religious lyrics

They are fucking brutal and they are a very serious and wedded band so I decided ... they really deserve our support and attention. Moreover, they have just released their second „Misanthropic Carnage“ album that appears to be the serial proof for their high class and potential. So let's see what the monster SEVERE TORTURE is like in the eyes of their guitar player Thijs!

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

-Well, could we say that SEVERE TORTURE is a Gore band? Maybe some of the lyrics are a little bit gore but we don't have the intention to make Grind Core or Gore Metal. We play brutal Death Metal with anti-religious lyrics. Hopefully Gore fans also like our music.

-As a dedicated Grind fan I could say that with your latest „Misanthropic Carnage“ album I had a great deal of fun, despite listening to this release so many times my blood keeps on boiling time and again... Do you think this is your best release so far?

Thank for the compliments! For us this release is the best release so far. We are really satisfied with „Misanthropic Carnage“ and I think we made a step up in Death Metal. We are still satisfied with „Feasting On Blood“ but there were some things we really wanted to change. The new album is more mature and has better songs which stay interesting from beginning to the end.

-Well, I guess your music is obviously CANNIBAL CORPSE influenced but still I regard your vocals (a little bit) more brutal yet you're more direct, you actually sound more straight-in-your-face... Where else do your influences lie?

Indeed we are very influenced by CANNIBAL CORPSE but our music is a little less technical and much faster than CANNIBAL CORPSE. Lyrically CANNIBAL CORPSE is more into gore, we are more anti-religious, and vocal-wise Dennis uses more low than George. As far as other influences, we listen a lot to IMMOLATION, SUFFOCATION and HATE ETERNAL. We never copy a band and if a certain riff sounds too much as if it already exists we don't use the riff. We try to get the catchy brutality of CANNIBAL CORPSE and the dark atmosphere of IMMOLATION. When people compare us with CANNIBAL CORPSE or another band we only see it as a big compliment! I heard that you had some problems with your artworks... Don't you fear of some people's attitude of classifying you as a band that relies on its covers for gaining popularity? By the way, which is the most disgusting front cover you have come across so far?

We had problems in Switzerland where we weren't allowed to play with CANNIBAL CORPSE (how wicked is that?) and for Germany there is a censored version for the stores. I don't think people will specially like us because we are „forbidden“ or something. Maybe it gives us more publicity but if we would suck people will still find out. I think it's bloody stupid to censor a band because the best way to raise your children is to show them reality and reality can be fucked up as we all know.... The most disgusting cover I have seen till now would be the new WURDULAK! I'm not really attracted by disgusting covers. I'd rather see a cover like all IMMOLATION CD's.

-So many Metal bands resorting to Yamaha for achieving some Metal sound... Is it the same with you? What kind of processor did you use for the guitars? How about the drumming?

I have never used Yamaha in my life! On „Feasting On Blood“ I used a Roland processor with a Marshall poweramp and on „Misanthropic Carnage“ I played straight through a Mesa Dual Rectifier, no effects or whatever. That gives me the best

sound, brutal but still very clear. For the bass we used an Ampeg head and cabinet and for the drums our drummer used his Tama Rockstar.

-Speaking of equipment, what kind do you use while rehearsing? I am sure it is pretty expensive anyway... Don't you feel anxious sometimes that you might be robbed?

We have our own rehearsal room and it's being watched by cameras and if somebody might rob us we still have insurance. Our own equipment exists of Hartke Bass Amp, SWR bass cabinet, Sansamp, Tobias basses, Jackson guitars, Line-6 guitar amp, Marshall cabinets and our drummer's Tama Rockstar + Roland triggering. It's pretty expensive stuff but we collected it over the years and always want to have a good sound.

-Which was SEVERE TORTURE's genre direction while you were forming the band? Did you have any line-up problems? Also, if you could say anything about your demo recordings, it would be great...

Seth, Patrick and me formed the band and when we started we played Swedish mid tempo Death Metal. We played cover songs from DISMEMBER, GRAVE and HYPOCRISY but we changed into brutal Death Metal by covering CANNIBAL CORPSE and DECIDE. When we started to write music we already knew that we wanted to make extreme brutal shit. When we finished 5 songs we recorded a demo called „Baptized...“ and on this demo we had a second guitarist and Eric on vocals (who left to join SINISTER after the demo). This demo is completely sold out at the moment.

-Were the 9 compositions completely done while you recorded at Franky's Recording Kitchen or did you need to change anything? Perhaps the studio guy appeared with some ideas himself?

When we entered the studio all 9 songs were completely finished and we only used studio time to record. We only added some extra guitar lines but that's hardly something to mention. We don't believe in writing in the studio and studio time is fucking expensive so you better be well prepared when you enter the studio. Let's say, that way you can spend the rest of your studio budget for beers!

-Did you meet difficulties with recording the drums? Anyway, I liked the overall sound but could you say more about the recording process though?

No real difficulties. We only triggered the bass-drums and maybe the snare's volume is going a little bit down in some fast parts but that only sounds natural I think. Seth recorded all 9 songs + 2 coversongs in only 2 days. Patrick and me played a guide-line with Seth while he was recording. After the drums were recorded it took a couple of evenings to make the bassdrums right. Then we recorded the guitar. It took little more than 3 days to do all the guitar lines and I used a Jackson Roads on the right channel and a Vigier Marilyn on the left channel. Patrick used 2 days for the bass and I believe Dennis did the vocals in 2,5 days. We did the mixing in a couple of evenings and that's about all.

-Well, I heard about your appearances at several US fests... What was the fans' reaction about your music, was there a

big crowd actually? Where do you think is the best place you could play your music when it comes to live performances?

We played the Ohio Death Fest twice (2001 & 2002) and there were about 600 to 700 visitors each. The crowd was really brutal and it was a real Underground festival. We also played the New England Metalfest 2002 and there were 1000 visitors. We played on the same day as NILE, IN FLAMES and ICED EARTH and as you understand it was a more commercial festival but still very cool crowd! Every country is cool to play in. Only Holland has a very static crowd (they rather watch and criticize than enjoy) but for the rest all countries we played in had very enthusiastic crowds. South Europe has really crazy moshpits. Maybe it has to do with the temperature...

-Any screw ups on stage?

We all make little mistakes but nothing the crowd will hear. During our latest songs we had to start over one song because we had a technical problem but for the rest there are no real screw ups. Steve DiGiorgio (SADUS) tried to force Patrick to make a screw up once (he was standing in front of the stage and tried to untight Patrick's shoelaces during our show) but that was only fun and nothing happened.

-You're doubtlessly great musicians and a great team as well... Still, haven't you felt desirous of creating music of a more unique kind, I mean music that has never been created before?

We like this style of Death Metal and we will always play the style we're into at that moment. I know what you mean, a band like NILE is creating something completely new and unique by using the samples and the Egyptian influences but we never felt like being really original. We try to make quality as you say and that's the most important for us. We definitely have our own style and sound.

-Your 5 rules according to which a Death Metal band could be guaranteed success? You know, there are lots of good bands but still they disappear like the snow in March right after they have released their debuts...

1. All bandmembers have to play their instruments very well
2. All bandmembers have to be cool and Death Metal (long hair, black clothes, etc)
3. All members have to headbang a lot on stage
4. Only record songs if they are good and finished, never rush
5. Be prepared to tour and quit your jobs.

A lot of bands think that when they have a record deal they can sit and wait until they are successful. You always have to be fanatic with shows and promotion and never rely on the company.

-Would you talk to your grandsons / granddaughters about SEVERE TORTURE with pride?

First of all I'm not planning to get children but to give an answer to your question let's pretend I will. I'm very proud of what I reached thus far and if I would have children or whatever I will always tell them about SEVERE TORTURE. It is a very important period in my life and I have a really good time and see a lot of cool things all over the world.

-It is well known that marijuana is legalized in Holland and that reminds me: do you know anybody who, despite being a very promising musician, did fail due to his drugs / alcohol addiction? I mean a friend of yours...

First of all, I don't use it but I'm not against it. Seth and Dennis use softdrugs but it will never affect their performance. I don't know people who fucked up with drugs and fucked up their musical career with it.

-„Extreme artists play extreme music“... Does this slogan work for SEVERE TORTURE as well, are you guys brutal in one way or another?

We are normal people but we create extreme art. We have an extreme vision on life and we hate a lot of people (and say it whenever we like to) but I don't know if that makes us brutal. We ain't serial killers and haven't been in prison or something so in that way we are nice guys.

-Is the (upcoming) tour with CANNIBAL CORPSE to be another materialized dream? It was your biggest goal to do a tour with CANNIBAL CORPSE!

We did 5 weeks with them and it was a big success! The venues were pretty big every night and we got a really good response. Also the merchandise sales went really overwhelming! Hopefully we can tour with them again in the future, maybe in the USA, that would be great!

-VADER is supposed to be among Europe's most successful Death Metal bands nowadays... Your opinion about them anyway?

I agree that they are the most successful Death Metal band in Europe. They are prepared to tour a lot and they come up with a new record every year and a half. I liked them more in times of „De Profundis“ but still they make good Death Metal.

-As if Gore Grind or Techno Grind acts prevail in listeners' lists lately in my opinion... How is it going in Europe at that point anyway?

I'm not into Grind Metal, I only listen to NAPALM DEATH, NASUM and EXHUMED. I know that a lot of people listen to Death Metal at this moment. A lot of shows are sold out and there are a lot of Death Metal bands in Europe. Maybe too much but I think the good and the strong will survive. I don't know about the situation in Bulgaria but I would love to play there sometimes!

-I saw your „Butchery Of The Soul“ video - great job certainly... I know it is hard for Death Metal bands to shoot any clips so did the label the banner you're under helped you with that? We financed the video by ourselves and Hammerheart Records was allowed to use it on the CD. It is done by a company called LowLife Media and they are really excellent! They already made video's for SINISTER, HOUWITSER, OCCULT, THANATOS and POWER SYMPHONY and they are working on the IMMOLATION DVD at this moment. When they did our video they made a special price because they also need it for promotion. At this moment it's very expensive to shoot a video because there are not a lot of channels who give you airplay nowadays.

-Any gigs for 2003? Where?

For this moment we only have 3 shows in Holland and Belgium with BLOOD RED THRONE. We are planning a European tour in March together with LIVIDITY but I believe it isn't confirmed yet.

-Do you have plans for hitting the States once again? How about Wacken? It would be fuckin' great to see you there... We hope to go back to the States in August 2003 and play at Milwaukee Metalfest but nothing is certain at this point. We hope we get a chance to play Wacken, we are working on it. We also try to play some other big festivals in the summer. It is really great to play on a festival you are visiting for a lot of years already.

-Your viewpoints about Samaritans? Would you join them in the name of the AIDS victims for example? I don't know what you mean by Samaritans? But I would never join a group in the name of AIDS.

-Well, I am sure we managed to present SEVERE TORTURE to our readers, how about your own message for them? Well, try to fucking buy our album and check out www.severetorture.com. Hopefully we get the chance to play in Bulgaria sometime! Stay brutal and drink more beer! Cheers!

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MUSTAN KUUN LAPSET

The Extreme Art of the Black Moon

The end of 2002 witnessed the birth of a lot of smashing albums, but it was one of them that caught the attention of the international press next to the „mainstream“ releases ... the debut offering of the Finnish four-piece MUSTAN KUUN LAPSET. Called „Suruntuoja“ (which means „Bringer Of Sorrow“ in the musicians' native language) and released through the local label Northern Sound Records, this CD presents a quite interesting breed of extremely melodic and variable new-school black metal and... well, you'd better listen to it carefully and judge its originality and qualities for yourselves. In the meantime, find out more about the history and philosophy of MUSTAN KUUN LAPSET, as well as some curious facts about Pete Lehtinen (vocals, guitar and keyboards), Pete Tamminen (guitar), Mikko Hautala (drums), and our kind interviewee ... bass player Kari Kinnunen.

NICKI VASSILEV

-How, when and where did you guys come together?
Lehtinen and Hautala started to play together back in 1993, while I just hang around. The place where everything began was a garage in Hollola, Finland. After a couple of months, I was asked to join them, and they didn't have to ask me twice. Still we didn't consider ourselves a complete band, because we had just one guitarist, so we started looking for another one. Gladly, our friend Tamminen, who was an experienced guitar player, was willing to join us. That's how „the early stage“ of MUSTAN KUUN LAPSET was formed. Back then our name was different and our music style varied a lot. While our style started taking shape, we began planning our first studio demo, which came out in 1996 under the name of MUSTAN KUUN LAPSET. Afterwards, the band's history is basically 6 releases and a bunch of gigs. No line-up or member changes, unless you count hair on the face and scars on the body...

-Would you say a few words about each of the four band members?

Kari Kinnunen ... Bold and bald.

Pete Lehtinen ... Our main composer and lyrics writer. Our band's very own playboy.

Pete Tamminen ... Our second composer. He has the fastest fingers I've ever seen.

Mikko Hautala ... May kill with his slipped drumstick.

-Why did you call your band MUSTAN KUUN LAPSET (meaning „Children of a Black Moon“), and why is that title in Finnish?
If I recall correctly, the idea came from Lehtinen. I had an English name on my mind, but we decided to stick to a Finnish one. I don't know the reason for choosing it, but all members wanted it to be that way.

-Well, let's talk about your full-length debut „Suruntuoja“ now. Why did it take you so long to release that album? You were formed in 1993, and the CD appeared almost 9 years later...
There are a few reasons. I think the major one were the problems with our former label, Nocturnal Music. „Suruntuoja“ was planned to be released over a year ago, but despite of the promises Nocturnal Music gave, it never came out. At some point, we got tired and changed to Northern Sound Records. It was a wise move, because even though it is a smaller label, everything works better. For that I would like to thank Mikko (Northern Sound's boss).

-... and what kind of topics does the lyrics on your album treat?

Lehtinen's fucked-up relationships, anger, sorrow, nature... love? Lehtinen couldn't tell where those tales come from, but suddenly they were on paper...

-Why did you decide to sing in Finnish exclusively? Don't you think you could reach a wider audience through English lyrics?
I guess we could have achieved more publicity with English lyrics, but that's not our way to go. We are not willing to sac-

rific our principles on the altar of commercialism. Lehtinen likes writing lyrics in Finnish, and I think that's the way it should be.

-Where do your main influences originate from?

Nature, seasons, weather... all beautiful and pure. Sometimes our main influences come from a terrible hangover...

-What about the music? I think it's very brutal, yet extremely melodic breed of Black Metal... Your comment?

That's what we are after. With combining the beauty and the cruelty, one can create atmosphere like no other. Personally I find bands who play 200 km/h without any breaks quite boring, although there are exceptions like one of my very favourites, Dark Funeral.

-Which other bands would you call your personal faves?

My taste is quite broad, but still I cannot stand any kind of tech/hell/no music. Mainly death and black metal, garage rock and stuff like The Gathering, Ismo Alanko and CMX, just to mention a few.

-I guess you're also listening to some Finnish bands, too...

Actually, I don't have that much time to search for local bands, but one group I have to mention is Suoli in Hand ... one of the greatest bands I've ever heard!

-Ok, back to Mustan Kuun Lapset. When should we await your next full-length album, and what should we expect from it?

We will enter the studio in April 2003 to record it, and we hope to release it this year. My opinion is that our style and new songs are more mature; I mean they are compiled better and have more ... but not too much! ... variety. I also think the overall quality of the songs is better.

-Will there be any tours in the meantime?

We have been offered a tour in Eastern Europe, but so far, nothing has been decided. Some separate gigs have been agreed in Finland.

-If there is anything you'd like to add...

I would like to thank all our fans for the support we got! Verta ja paskaa!



the underground

CONSPIRACY

„Same“ Demo CD-R
Self Released

Hehey, what a nice surprise! I was the reviewer of CONSPIRACY's debut demo for Brutalica #7 and now I am sent the Swedes' second effort too! And I am very glad to notice the band's huge progress since „Oppressed For Years“ (that was pretty good, by the way)... The second demo has been recorded in the beginning of 2002 and contains 3 tracks of awesome Thrash / Death Metal expressed in ponderous riffage and relentlessly impaling drums. Welcome back, guys! Web: <http://go.to/conspiracysite>

Yana Marinova

BURIAL PLACE

„Damnation“ Demo Tape
B.T.O.D.

I listened to this demo with a couple of friends who were curious to hear the latest creation of BURIAL PLACE. And regardless the fact that we like different bands from the Underground, we all agreed that „Damnation“ would have been much better without those pompous female singing of Giovanna and the keyboards that are out of place most of the time. I don't know why this demo has only two songs in it + intro and outro - two songs aren't enough to build an opinion about a band's music. The guys aren't bad musicians especially the bassist Massimo who creates some impressive stuff. If you're a diehard fan of CRADLE OF FILTH and symphonic Black Metal as a whole maybe BURIAL PLACE will appeal to you. For contact: burialplace@freemail.it

Tsvetan Rachev

EXSANGUINATOR

„Bloodline“ Demo CD-R
Self Released

Honestly speaking, I haven't heard much from the Australian Extreme Scene as I was rather intrigued of giving EXSANGUINATOR a listen. Eventually, this demo CD turned out not a bad one as a whole... Its 2 tracks are mid 90's Black Metalish, entirely accorded to the same old formula namely vehement riffage, plus gloomy acoustic moments from time to time. Nothing new but at least the quality is far from bad and the layout is simple and nice. Let's see what will come next from these guys... Contact: stysalpit@yahoo.com

Yana Marinova

ZOMA

„Fenomenos“ Promo CD-R
Self Released

Since Brutalica supports all forms of Underground music, it's quite natural for bands like ZOMA to find their place at our pages although this band has nothing in common with extreme music. This is emotional psychedelic music which requires concentration if you want to taste the pleasure which these sounds bring. I don't have any info about ZOMA, their name sounds Latino so probably they come from Spain or South America... Anyway, that's not the most important thing. ZOMA play music for relaxation, there's no aggression in it but it carries its own beauty. The composition „Zoma“ is an interpretation of Gershwin's „Summertime“ and it sounds like a soundtrack of a suicide. Be careful with the drugs when you listen to this CD - the consequences might be unpredictable! If you want to contact these psychos write to: superhorz@starmedia.com

Tsvetan Rachev

SHRINE OF SCARS

„Deathbed For A Weakening Spirit“ Demo CD-R
Self Released

That's an Underground goody! With their demo CD SHRINE OF SCARS from Sacramento offer 9 tracks of grim Thrash / Death that will certainly resurrect many heads dearest memories of escapades from the 80's! Soundwise the recording is far from bad but still not too good so that to spoil the oldschool atmosphere... Get in touch by visiting SHRINE OF SCARS' website here: <http://www.shrineofscars.com>

Yana Marinova

ETERNAL DEFORMITY

„The Serpent Design“ Promo CD-R
Self Released

ETERNAL DEFORMITY come from Poland and their „Serpent Design“ is for all who like to hear experimental, non-standard music. This band combines a lot of styles so there can't be given any proper definition. Anyway, as I see it this is more Gothic Metal oriented but you'll hear also strong Death Metal, some folk elements here and there, slight electronic / new wave feeling and strange interpretation of one part of QUEEN's „Bohemian Rhapsody“. All guys of ETERNAL DEFORMITY are skilled musicians and do their work very well. I don't like Przemek Kajnar's voice but it's a matter of taste. The sound is on a high level, there's no weak point here. If you're already interested write some lines to: edsmvyczek@poczta.onet.pl

Tsvetan Rachev

SCALD

„Mematoid: Specimen Parts V - IX“ Promo CD-R
Self Released

What I heard from this Irish band was 3 songs of not bad Thrash Metal with weird movie samples here and there. The record quality is rather good and the artwork merely kicks ass for its elegant ghostliness. I will be watching forward to hear some more from these guys! Web: <http://www.peoplesound.com/artist/scald>

Yana Marinova

MOULDED FLESH / DENE8

„Split Demos“ CD-R
Self Released

Here is the serial proof that Poland keeps on giving birth to bands extreme and talented enough to adumbrate many of their colleagues from Scandinavia or USA... Both MOULDED FLESH and DENE8 demonstrate great form and dedication of creating music and I believe their names will be learned very soon if they keep up the hard work! So, this demo CD begins with MOULDED FLESH's „Indulgence“ that contains 7 tracks of rhythmic Death Metal with some Gorefest influences. It will certainly appeal to the connoisseurs of bands referring to the genres considered. DENE8 follow with their 3 track demo „Disparagmat“ - extremely rapid and well performed Death / Black with awesome drumming and schizoid vocals. Contact: mufdendene8@wp.pl

Yana Marinova

GOLDEN PYRE

„NecroTerrorism“ Demo Tape
Self Released

I haven't heard many Portuguese Death Metal bands but those I had the chance to listen to didn't disappoint me. GOLDEN PYRE isn't an exception so expect aggressive skillful Death Metal diversified with melodic passages. GOLDEN PYRE exist since 1997 and „NecroTerrorism“ is their second demo and it comes with very good sound. As I said before there aren't many well-known Death Metal bands from Portugal so GOLDEN PYRE shouldn't remain unnoticed if they keep up the good work.

Tsvetan Rachev

7TH NEMESIS

„Promo 2002“ CD-R
Self Released

Here is another outfit from France. 7TH NEMESIS have been formed back in 2000 and what they now offer is rather spacy Death Metal with some Gorefest influences... The layout is not less intriguing and the quality of the recording itself is far from bad. A must-have for every deathbanger into Underground curios! Web: <http://www.7thnemesis.fr.st>

Yana Marinova

BLOODSHED

The Swedish Death Machine

As soon as I was given the chance of acquainting myself with the music of this Swedish outfit I said to myself:

„Dammit, this band must not be missed!“ And I guessed right BLOODSHED's new CD „Inhabitants of Dis“ left me completely breathless! For this is a unique art the music of which is undescribly great for listeners this achieved by pretty relevant combining of various extreme Metal genres. In brief, whenever you feel seized by the claws of tedium know that the key to salvation is BLOODSHED! For now, check out this interview with Robin Verho and Tommy Eberg...

DILIANA IANKOVA

-Thus, this is your first full-length album and before that you have released two demos and an MCD „Skullcrusher“... When exactly did you feel that something was to happen - something that was meant to make you famous?

I've always felt that our music holds a certain quality, and I think that we started to evolve into something more of our own on the MCD. This evolution has of course continued on the full-length. But we've never set out to be famous. The music is the important part. We make music mostly for our own sake, but it's also nice if others like it too.

-How did you come to the decision of forming BLOODSHED? Was the genre you are currently involved in the one you've always wanted to be a part of?

Mikael had grown tired of his old band and met Joel while being out drinking, and they found out that they had a similar taste in music. So they decided to meet up at the rehearsal place a few days later. The idea was to play some sort of fast Black / Death Metal, which it also turned into. So yes, the genre we're involved in is the one we wanted to be a part of. -I still remember the way I felt when I gave a first listen to „Skullcrusher“... I just felt eager of hearing some more from you as soon as possible and my dream eventually came true! What do other fans think about your debut anyway?

I'm not sure. So far only two non-friends or non-magazine people have had the energy to give us any sort of comment (both very positive though). So, surf on to our website and write a comment in our guestbook or send us an e-mail all you out there! A majority of the reviews we've received have also been positive. I think 7 or 8 out of 10 is the average grade the album gets.

-Not that it's very easy to describe BLOODSHED stylistically but still I dare classify you as a band playing Death Metal in both Swedish and American vein - Is there something like that indeed? If yes, is this what you do on purpose or does it come from within?

Well, I'd say that we play Metal with influences from Swedish and Norwegian Black Metal as well as both Swedish and American Death Metal plus a healthy dose of Thrash. So I think your classification is not at all totally wrong. And it is definitely not something we think about when we make music. We want our songs to sound good and for them to have an own sound is also something we strive for. If it is a bit difficult to describe or categorize us then it seems like we've managed pretty well with that.

-Would you give me a clue of the meaning of your album's title („Inhabitants of Dis“)? In fact, it was namely „dis“ that made me wonder... what stands behind it?

„Dis“ is a city that we borrowed from Dante's „The Divine Comedy“ (the „Inferno“ part). In the book it is a city in the inner regions of hell, surrounded by a great iron wall and filled by sinners. The text for „City Of Dis“, from where the album title is taken, deals with the concept of hell, moral, perception, good and evil. The city and its citizens are used as a symbol for deviation and a counterpart to the absolute. So, it's anti-Christian (and anti-Jewish and anti-Muslim for that matter), but it can be applied to more than just religion.

-Did you start working upon your new release right after you finished with „Skullcrusher“? Say something more about „Inhabitants...“ please.

When we had finished the recording of „Skullcrusher“ we took a little break from the band. After a recording session we're usually a bit tired of the band, since it has occupied one's mind totally for a couple of months. But when we recorded „Skullcrusher“ we had some additional material written already. „Mark of the Cursed“ was almost finished, except for the lyrics and vocals arrangements. The same thing goes for „Paradoxal Experience“. Tommy had that one written, we just altered the lyrics and fixed the vocal arrangements. I think he also had a good portion of „Blood Music“ ready. The sample

in the song, which is from „Dance of the Vampires“ (great movie by the way), was fixed and arranged soon before the recording of „Inhabitants...“ though. About „Inhabitants...“: it has a little different sound than „Skullcrusher“. The sound is rawer yet cleaner. It's still a mix of Black and Death Metal, along with some Thrash, but I think some people will find that the Black Metal part is more emphasized now. We have absolutely not forgotten our Death Metal influences though. Make no mistake about that. A part of this has to do with the production. But there are also some material that is more Black Metal than the songs on „Skullcrusher“, like „Paradoxal Experience“ for example. The MCD had more of a Death Metal production. But we felt that our Black Metal part got a bit overshadowed. The material on „Inhabitants...“ is also more varied, which is kind of necessary when it's a matter of eleven songs instead of four. We included two acoustic pieces and an instrumental one. Also, we experimented a little in the vocal department. Along with Glenn's Black Metal vocals and my Death Metal growls, Tommy did some Black Metal vocals (which differs a bit from Glenn's I must say), growl vocals and a very bizarre inhale singing. The growl vocals are something we thought of using already on our second demo, but it isn't until now that we did use it for some reason.

-Another release via Code 666... Have you had offers from other labels so far?

Yes, before we signed with Code666 we got a couple of offers. We were actually supposed to sign with an American label first, but that got screwed up. But it seems, as that was only positive, since I've heard that a couple of bands on that label were very disappointed with them. Then we almost signed with a Malaysian label, but then Code666 offered us a much better deal.

-What made you choose exactly Code 666? Did you sign a contract for the releasing of more CDs through this label?

They offered us the best deal, seemed serious and they really seem to like the music of all the bands they sign, which I think is a big plus. The deal was for „Skullcrusher“ and „Inhabitants of Dis“. So, at the moment we have no contract for any additional albums. Code666 seem to want to keep us on their roster though. But right now we want to concentrate on promoting „Inhabitants...“ and maybe do some gigs, before negotiating new deals.

-„Inhabitants of Dis“ has been recorded at Sunlight Studio as well - Is this very fact based upon any superstition or it just mirrors your contentedness? By the way, the production is of a great quality.

Thanks. When we were going to record „Skullcrusher“ we were thinking of testing another studio, since we had already recorded our second demo, „Laughter Of Destruction“, at Sunlight. But we ended up back there anyway. And for „Inhabitants...“ we just didn't want to take a chance on any other studio. Sunlight felt like a safe card to play. But it was a bit different this time. On „Laughter...“ and „Skullcrusher“ we worked with Jocke Pettersson, but now Skogsberg was behind the controls. It didn't change the recording procedure too much though. Both Jocke and Skogsberg are calm and easy to work with. For our next release we are probably going to test another studio. It's not that we don't like Sunlight. We just want to test something new.

-Tell me something about the lyrics - some of the titles intrigued me hell of a lot („Paradoxal Experience“, „Blood Music“, etc...) Is there any connection between the lyrics or not?

As usual Glenn, Tommy and I contributed with lyrics. We also got some help from two friends of ours, Morgan (who is also a part of our side project KINGDOM DECAYED) and Jonny „Release“, for which Jonny wrote the lyrics, is meant as a tribute to him since he passed away a while before the recording of the album. Tommy always tries to put himself in a person's

shoes in a certain situation. So his lyrics usually have a little connection. Glenn wrote „Doomsday device“, which follows the same path as the lyrics he wrote for the „Skullcrusher“ EP. This one is more man-made-Armageddon-orientated though. „Paradoxal Experience“ (which Morgan and I wrote), „City Of Dis“ and „Psychosomatic Revelation“ all have a psychology base. „Death By Hanging“, „Kiss Of Cruelty“, „City Of Dis“ and „Mark Of The Cursed“ deal with religion (among other things). „Doomsday Device“ and „Psychosomatic Revelation“ are also about evolution. So, there are a couple of connections among the lyrics. But it's not a concept album.

-I have to say that Swedish bands appeal to me most! I can feel plenty of vitality and incandescence in their music and this goes for outfits referring to both Black and Death Metal; among my fav ones are THE CROWN, DIABOLICAL MASQUERADE, DARK FUNERAL, etc... And I know I am not the only one who is into bands from your country! What do you think this mass affinity to Swedish Metal is due to? Yet I have the impression that you are utter melomaniacs out there...

Tommy: One explanation could be the enormous number of bands. I mean, a lot of people over here play in several different projects. With a ton of bands playing in several different styles, you also get a lot of good ones in every genre. The great accessibility of rehearsal-places and instruments for borrowing has contributed a lot to the large amount. Then again, maybe there is just something magical with the Swedish band-collective that you subconsciously have discovered; that just has passed me by.

-Any album(s) that you might be obsessed with lately?

Well, DISSECTION „The Sowerlain“, HYPOCRISY „Osculum Obscurum“, SLAYER „Reign In Blood“, GORGOROTH „Under The Sign Of Hell“ and a couple of others are something I will always listen to. Lately I've also listened much to ENTOMBED „Morning Star“ (I actually borrowed that one from the library), RAISE HELL „Wicked Is My Game“, Tom Waits „Blood money“, DECEMBER WOLVES „Completely Dehumanized“ and an old demo from a band called DEVASTATION. I have no idea what the demo is called though. I don't have any song titles or anything like that, I just know they're from Chicago and the demo is since around '86 - '88.

-Have you played live as yet? How do you imagine a „killer“ concert as?

Yes, we've played live, but not many times. Only four gigs so far actually. The best gigs we've done were the two we did in Finland (Helsinki and Turku) together with FINNTROLL. A killer concert would be to open for SLAYER, to have blood, leather and spikes, a backstage room filled with beer and to have the audience go crazy. The audience in Finland was actually very good. I'd like very much to go back there and play again.

-Say something about each of the BLOODSHED - (musical) interests, preferences in the fields of literature and the like...

Tommy (guitar and vocals) is an eager, impatient, Finnish guy who makes music as often as possible. He's desperately looking for a job at the moment as his a-kassa will soon be going to hell. He usually reads literature of dark nature for inspiration: scriptures in relation to mysticism, the human psyche, etc. Glenn (vocals) is a rather bizarre person. He's fond of movies with a lot of special effects in them, animals and nature (he watches all TV-shows about sharks he gets his hands on for example) and is a big fan of „The Simpsons“ and „Futurama“ (which all people should be according to me). He also has a talent for finding the craziest music, like Japanese pop, Arabic disco or Nintendo game covers. As that wasn't enough he has actually made an own remix of the song from the old computer game „Arkanoid“. When it comes to literature he mostly reads fantasy, Sci-fi and the newspaper. Joel (guitar) is an almost-alcoholic with a gambling addiction. But he also has his negative sides. Another good thing though is that he is a MORBID ANGEL fanatic. I think he is reading

„Lords Of Chaos“ right now. I don't think Mikael has read a book since high school. It's not really his thing. What he does read is the travel agency's folders about flights to Bali. Every year he flies there and visits his father who lives there. When he's here in Sweden though he plays drums, works in a warehouse, watches a movie a little now and then and goes out drinking. I, Robin (bass and growls) read mostly non-fiction (like books about psychology, history, religion, mythology etc), but also some fiction (I can recommend „The Hitchhiker's guide to the galaxy“ by Douglas Adams and „Das Parfum“ by Patrick Süskind). I'm not into fantasy, sci-fi, criminal stories or stuff like that too much when it comes to literature. Right now I'm reading a book on psychology by Jung. Other than music and reading books I'm interested in graphical design, movies and the usual crap like alcohol and collecting prejudices.

-Which are the things that unite you all?

Metal, and maybe some alcohol.

-Which band(s) inspire you musically?

Actually, nowadays I don't get that much inspiration from listening to bands. The ones that have helped me to find interest in extreme Metal and the ones that gave me the will to start creating something of my own in the initial faze were SLAYER, HYPOCRISY, DISSECTION, AT THE GATES, AMORPHIS, IMMORTAL and some others. There are two bands that have been moulding my perception ever since I learned to walk, ZZ-TOP and RAINBOW. Things that inspire me nowadays are different forms of implementation through art. Whether it's observing a powerful painting or just an interesting image, reading books or lyrics, I always seem to find something that gets me motivated to material-creation; a collaborative mood of visuals and sound.

-What would you associate with „terms“ like (cannibal) corpses, beer, sex, drugs...?

Corpses - I come to think of Corpse, the band that later became GRAVE. I must try to find my tape with old Swedish Death Metal on it now that I think of it. I also come to think of CANNIBAL CORPSE's gig here in Stockholm 2000, with VOMITORY and THE CROWN as opening acts. That was a real killer show. Beer - Koff! Finnish beer kicks arse! Sex - Makes me think of flesh, and bodily fluids. Drugs - I'm actually a bit afraid of drugs (except for alcohol). Narcotics seem to unleash a lot of things and my mind scares me enough without turbo-fuelling it with LSD and anything like that.

-As if the girls into more brutal music are too few... Do you think I might be supposed to be sick or something then, just because I am into stuff like that myself?

YOU'RE OBVIOUSLY MENTALLY ILL! But seriously, it seems like more women are getting involved in Metal, and I think we will see more of that in the future. There is certainly an over-representation of men in the Metal scene now. Wonder if it's because of the social standards of what's considered manly or womanly, or some inherited aggression instinct.

-I guess that's all from me. Maybe you would like to add something in conclusion?

Thank you for the interview. A good one. I can recommend people to check out our website (www.bloodshed.info) if they're interested in the band. „Inhabitants Of Dis“ is out in Europe now. It will be released on license in the ex-Soviet countries in October or so. Right now we're hoping for the license deals in the US and Japan to go through. Cheers!

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-I really wonder what to start with first as I have so many questions for you... It's been a while after you released „Out Of Emotional Disorder“ (1999) - what were you so occupied with for 3 years? Jobs, concerts?

We had some problems with the line up, rehearsal contracts and all that kind of shit. The band was almost dead in my eyes for 6 months. I hid in my home from the outside world and was very tired of life and everything around me. Now we have a functional line up. Probably the best one we've ever had since the start in '93. It was this new injection of blood that made us continue and that is why we now released an album 3 years after our 2nd album „Out of...“.

-As I can see, this period of silence is connected with some line-up changes: why did Conny and Danyael quit?

Yeah you are right. Conny was more or less kicked out of the band, since we were very tired of rehearsing without bass. He'd almost gone underground, caring only about his work and his beer. We decided to let D.K. try out his bass skills and he suited us just fine. Danyael left the band himself shortly before we entered Los Angered Recording to record the new album. He had a sickness, and had to leave the band because of this. He's now well and, as Conny, a friend of ours.

-Do their departures have anything in common with your different sound nowadays? Or maybe you headed for a new musical dimension before that...

No. Neither Conny nor Danyael wrote any music for TAETRE. It has always been me doing that. We started going in this „new“ direction I think like a year after the recording of „Out of...“. I remember that I had problems with writing any music that I was satisfied with, and one thing lead to another.

-Honestly speaking, I like „The Art“ better - to me this is an album that keeps on exciting and fueling me up with a lot of energy. It appears to belong to that brilliant group of CDs that, after being released all of a sudden, are to be never forgotten. What would you say to all those who share my view? I like „Divine Misanthropic Madness“ too but it is totally different from what you played back in 1998.

Well I must say that I like „The Art“ as well. It's in my ears a lot better than „Out Of Emotional Disorder“ even though the sound could have been better. But as a writer I would not try to do another „The Art“. I can't tell what the future would hold though, but... I have to say this, that I never write any music or lyrics or whatever to please anyone but me. I have to feel that the music is cool. If I do something I don't like it would be all wrong to release it from my point of view. It would feel fake I think.

-What happened that you signed with Mighty Music? Where did Diehard fail?

Michael, the headman of Mighty Music, was also our label manager on Emanzipation Productions, and we decided to continue our work with him on Mighty Music rather than continue working with Diehard. I don't want to badmouth anyone, so this answer will be a bit short I'm afraid.

-Okay, let's stop with critics here - I must agree that this album kicks ass too with its haunting and brutal riffs that are not devoid of melody at the same time... Why did you change so much stylistically though?

It became hard to listen to Death Metal that didn't have a lot of stupid folkloric melodies. This pissed me off. I got very tired of these classic IRON MAIDEN goes Death Metal melodies, so I felt that TAETRE should not be a part of this anymore. We like Thrash Metal a lot and I guess that the other guys also felt like playing harder and more „in your face“ rather than doing some stupid melody based Death Metal. I still think that some melodies are cool you know, but it should not take over everything. If a band want to sound heavy I think that the band needs some heavy „not melodic“ riffs that simply just crush. And then, if you want you can add some melodies, but don't let them take over. Then it just sounds like shit to me.

-How does it feel to work with Andy La Roque? I can't remember if you have recorded any of your previous CDs at Los Angered Studio as well...

We have done all of our albums with Andy. We've basically been very pleased with him. He's a really cool down-to-earth guy, with great talent both as a guitarist / songwriter and as a stu-

Death Metal is meant to be extreme

Doubtlessly the music of TAETRE keeps on impressing a lot of fans, despite the band's total transformation stylistically. No compromises here when it comes to aggression or influences on emotional level! Okay, let's see what Lindblood thinks about all those TAETRE changes as a whole...

DILIANA IANKOVA

dio technician. We have never felt pressured in the studio due to lack of time or whatever, and he's always had some ideas about the music. I would be lying if I would say that we always did what he thought was cool, cause we do what we think is cool. But of course, if we liked his idea, we would use it.

-And what lead to Andy's questing in „Virus“ and „Paradox“? As I told you earlier (at least I think so...this is not the first interview I do today...even though this is the most fun bringing one) Danyael left the band just before we entered the studio, and Maggot was not yet in the band. So, I had a problem. I didn't have time to do all solos myself. I asked Andy if he would help us out and he said yes. To tell you the truth. From the beginning I did not have so many solos in the songs. I think I made maybe 3 solos or something, just to add something to the empty space Danyael left. Andy did the solo on „Paradox“ first I remember. Then we sat down and listened through the songs and he said that „wouldn't it be cool if there were a guitar doing something here“ meaning on „Virus“. And he asked if he could show us what he meant, and then we said „cool, record it!“.

-Are you satisfied with the final result? What I mean is that I supposed you might have thought that you could have done some details better...

Of course, there are always some details that bother you. There are some details on this album that we would have done differently as well, but I don't think it's that much. The big thing that I'm a bit pissed of at myself is that we didn't rehearse more songs, since we had more songs. And recorded like one more or something, since the album is only 34 minutes or something. We thought the songs were longer than they were, or we played them too fast. I don't know. Next time we will take the time on everything in advance to know around what time the album will become. I must say though that I mostly don't like Death Metal albums that are too long, and too long for me is probably over 45 minutes. And I prefer short-fast-in your face-songs. So I guess that next album will be around 40 minutes or something. Let's see if I will turn out right when it comes out.

-What exactly do you regard as „Paradox“-al? Yet I cannot help asking if you haven't considered sometimes „The Madness And the Dream“ as more convincing than reality itself?

What I sing about on this song is the paradox of Christianity. I wouldn't say that dreams and madness are more convincing but maybe more pleasant than reality. Reality is just what the world has made it. The world today is a sickening place. I can't leave my house without getting pissed at something. Imagine, that we could not hide in the refuge of our dreams, then I guess the world would have been completely different. For good or bad, I don't know. But we would have to deal with it all the time. Concerning the madness...well the mad. Who knows what reality is...is it the things we see, or is it the twisted world of some asylum patient. Just because the sane are more in number. Does that make them right?

-Do the new album lyrics carry a concrete message to the listeners?

Yes, they do. I think the lyrics on this album are the best we've

ever done. If you can't smell the hate that they reek of, then you just have no emotion or whatever. The lyrics are dealing with my anger, my hate, my „black“ sides. All my bad thoughts put down on paper. I wanted something really hateful, cause I don't like when Death Metal bands sing about dragons or fairytales or whatever. Death Metal is meant to be extreme and I intend to continue doing that to my absolute limit. As far as I can go. And believe me, I can go far.

-„We'll still be Metal when we have short hairs, an ugly wife and work 9 to 5“... do you support the Mighty Music slogan? Got ya: let's see how you're going to answer a question from a woman (most probably supposed to become a wife someday, ha, ha...) who dresses not like a metalhead but is a huge TAETRE fan!

Yeah what can I say. It's their slogan and not ours. Let's say it this way. I would never have a slogan like this, but if they want, let them have it. I don't really care that much how people look like or whatever, and I am bound to Metal forever and I don't need to boast about that I listen / am / worship Metal. Cause I don't feel that need. I don't give a shit about what someone thinks of me. If I don't know that person, that person don't mean anything to me. Kind of cold words maybe, but I intend to be honest with you.

-Do you plan to go on tour? Alas, Bulgaria would not be in your list but still I hope that you'll be attacking Stuttgart somewhere in December / January for I will happen to be there...

I think something is planned for early 2003, but since I haven't got any details to share with you, I can't. Another very short answer here, I'm afraid. But let's say like this. We are waiting for something, and as I said earlier. The line-up we have now is the best one we've ever had, so it would be really cool to go out and just run you all over!

-What are you occupied with when not busy with TAETRE - any jobs, side projects, hobbies?

Maggot and D.K. and me all work for a living, you know. To get our damn bills paid. We all have very boring jobs, even though D.K. has some perverse obsession about his job. When he's talking about it, there's like light shining from his eyes. He's putting pipes in the ground. Maggot is a electrician and I am a caretaker. Graveyard is studying at the moment. He and Maggot are playing some soccer as a hobby or whatever they want to call it. Maggot was actually a very good player until he chose the bottle before the ball. Drinking is probably a hobby that we all share. I'm doing the posters for a Metal club here in Gothenburg called Belsepud.

-Any CD(s) that you might have been impressed by lately?

I don't think it's new but I've been listening to EMPEROR's „Anthems...“ or something, much lately, and I think it's really cool. I don't listen much to new albums. I don't know why. I prefer listening to older stuff. I really like albums like „Appetite For Destruction“ or old SLAYER albums. Well the most of the Bay Area Thrash bands from the 80's. I also listen a lot to old Heavy Metal like WASP, MOTLEY CRUE and that kind of music.

-What happened to the numerous Black Metal bands both from Sweden and Norway? Is their withdrawal a calm before the storm or is BM giving way to Death Metal once more?

I don't know. They probably turned into gothic or something. You know cause it's legal to look like a freak in this genre. I don't have a clue what really happened. I guess it was just a bit of a trend, being evil and wearing corpsepaint as everybody did a couple of years ago. I never listened very much to Black Metal, cause I thought that Death Metal was superior in every way. I think there will be a couple of years before the next wave of Black Metal bands turn up. We have to forget in order to discover it again or something. The next wave will probably not sound as it has done earlier...I don't know...

-Your opinion about THE CROWN's „Crowned In Terror“ and IMMORTAL's „Sons Of Northern Darkness“?

I haven't heard the IMMORTAL album so I can't say anything about it at all. I've heard a couple of songs from THE CROWN and I thought it was kinda cool. Not fantastic but cool. I think that their older material was better though. I didn't like the intro I remember. It sounded like a TV show we have here in Sweden, in America I think it's called „Survivor“. You know, a lot of people are on a deserted island, and one by one they will have to leave it. The last one gets a lot of money.

-What is your own music inspired by more - personal experiences or albums of other bands? What kind of stuff do you listen to, by the way?

It's a mixture of all these things I guess. Bands that have the greatest influence on us is bands like DECIDE, old SLAYER, TESTAMENT and the first ANNIHILATOR albums. We like the older KREATOR albums, CANNIBAL CORPSE & older MORBID ANGEL when David Vincent was doing the vocals. I guess movies and books also have their influence. I really like the work of Olive Barker, whether it's books or movies. Some of the lyrics are totally based on things that has happened to me in real life, when others might be inspired by personal experiences. The important thing is not how you make the soup, but how the soup tastes, right? Whatever inspires us in a good way is good and I guess there's a lot of different things that does that.

-Do you think about another TAETRE CD and, in case you do, what should we be expecting from it? I hope it won't take another 3 years until you show up once again...

Well I'm a bit restless. So I have already written 6 or 7 new songs. I will continue writing more material, so we can choose from a lot of different songs next time. And I don't think you'll have to wait another 3 years for the next album. Maybe one and a half year or something. The music that I have written so far is in the same vein as „Divine...“ but also a bit different. It's hard to explain. I think we will end up going more into the early Swedish Death Metal ala 90's direction mixed with insane Thrash Metal madness. I don't think the next album will be a lot more melodic than this one, but I think it will be darker, even though I think „Divine...“ is really dark. The lyrics will be very extreme, cause I intend to push it further. But we will see. Maybe we will have like 15-20 songs to choose from, and it all depends on what we will choose, cause I've made both faster songs and a bit slower ones. I do have some titles, but...it would feel stupid to start giving them away at this point.

-I am very curious to find out what exactly stands behind the name of TAETRE? There is a similarity with the word theatre on phonetical level I guess...

TAETRE is Latin and means something like „hideous“. Yeah, we've been told about theatre before so it's nothing new. I don't really care about it. We had two names in the past before TAETRE, and we were very tired of having the same name as another band, that is the main reason we chose TAETRE. I think it's a good bandname. It's short and mystic.

-Now when I have no more questions I would like to state that it was a great pleasure to think over them all as TAETRE is a band which I definitely care about and I wish you good luck with the new album! Would you add something as a finale, thank you...

Thank you very much Diliana for this interview. It's been a pleasure answering. For all of you who haven't got the new album, go out and check it out. And to all of you who have it...Cheers!

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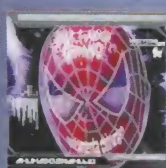
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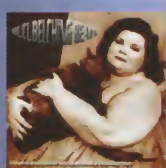
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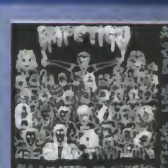
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Poland's Death Metal Monsters have conquered the world!

Well, I always feel different (in a good way!) whenever I have the opportunity of coming across something from VADER... And I cannot explain whether this is due to the fact that this is one of my fave bands or that these Polish freaks are so important and unique against the background of all what today's Death Metal Scene breeds. Actually VADER possess the hidden talent of entralling you by submerging you to the essence of the meaningful yet powerful! Dammit, I could write a novel regarding my fascination of these guys but I'd better leave you read the replies from the band's leader Peter instead... Enjoy!!!

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

-Hello, Peter! Where are you calling from?
Oh, I'm calling from Poland, from my home.
-I hope you're ready to speak about your new masterpiece „Revelations“?
Oh, yeah. Thanks for the opinion, if you think so!
-This album really surprised me because of the different moods in it. Can we say that „Revelations“ is your deepest and most diverse album so far?
It's hard to say being a composer. We never made the same albums in our history, so all those who expected something like „Litany“ #2 were wrong because when we were recording I told that our next album would be something different probably. We are going our way and everything which influences us as composers would decide about the sound, about the album. What happened on September 11 was like 80% of the influence for that album and that's why it's pretty much apocalyptic, with such a mood and atmosphere.
-So, you will agree with me that „Litany“ was much more straightforward musically...
Oh, yes. „Litany“ was more grinding stuff, a pretty fast, straight and rasp album. There's much more atmosphere in „Revelations“ and the songs are probably more different, the production's different, because we worked with another person...
-I think one of the best things about the new album is that it grows on you ... one cannot have a full impression from only two days of listening!
Something that I like a lot here and I think it is not present in „Litany“ are the small things and details in the music, in-

between the songs. Maybe for „Revelations“ that worked out because we had more time to prepare it in the studio.
-You once again decided to record in Red Studios. Why did you leave Selani Studio? By the way I personally think that Red Studios' sound is much better than Selani's one!
So, you answered yourself! Red Studio has better equipment and we had spent three or four sessions in this studio before, so it's pretty much known for us. Selani, of course, is a different studio today than the one we recorded the „Black To The Blind“ album in. However, when we record in Red Studios, it's not even necessary to talk with the producer, we understand each other pretty well. The conditions, the price, the place and the people responsible for the sound in the studio ... all these things are the reason why we choose to record there! I like to experiment and in the past we tried to record the albums in different studios but until now, the Red Studio is like the best solution for us.
-Peter, could you please describe in short the new 9 tracks... the moods, the meaning of the words and the musical merits of each of them?
I will try to make it in general, because there have been several additions and it's hard to say which version you have in front of your eyes. The first idea was to record fifteen songs. Finally we made 15 raw tracks, but we finished 14 songs. One of them was recorded for a Hellspawn Records compilation and the other 13 songs were recorded for „Revelations“. Two of the songs were saved for the Japanese edition, because they are generally against the import albums and so we tried to make something special for them. A song was saved for the Polish

edition and another song for the special edition in Europe by Metal Blade. So the first and the last songs from the album „Epitaph“ and „Revelation Of Black Moses“ are something like the alpha and omega, the beginning and the end. „The Epitaph“ is like a tombstone for humanity, so the mood you can feel listening to that song is telling that everything in humanity is going to degrade. This is the song we're gonna make a video for. The last track „Revelation...“ is a very special song. We've never made such a long song in our career, it's 7.06 minutes long, which altogether is 666 seconds, ha-ha! The song gets slower and slower. It has three parts: the first is like a view of the philosopher called Black Moses, the second part is the war in heaven and the last one is about the execution of god and this is like the end of everything, the end of humanity. The last words of that prophet are like a quintessence of the album. What's in-between is that the songs are getting faster. „The Nomad“ is something different, it's the perfect song about us, if we compare it to our life, its mood is similar to „Blood Of Kingu“ for example. The next ones are pretty regular VADER songs. „Torch Of War“ has a special slow part in the middle. „The Code“ has that classical middle riff and resembles our main influences. So, that's general but we don't have too much time to make it in detail.
-Why did Shambo leave the band? What can you tell about this new guy Simon?
Simon joined the band before the several shows in Poland in November, which were like a baptism for him. Before, he played in a more Thrash Metal band called HUNTER, he is a pretty close friend of Mauser ... they had played together in the past

and that's why he was the first person I tried for being a bass player. What happened with Shambo was that I told him to leave the band. After so many years that was a very hard decision. He started to be something absolutely different, like an alien to the band and the atmosphere was not so good. He started to be an absolutely non-Metal person, he forgot about responsibility, which is very important for everybody who is a band member. Too many people are waiting for our next release and if you're not serious in what you're doing, you cannot be a part of the band. I was talking about this with him since at least two years and the only thing he could say to me were promises but he never could fulfill the promises in real. I finally said no, if don't really want to be in the band, that's not a must ... you can do whatever you want.

-We also heard 1 or 2 years ago that Doc has left VADER for a while. Is it true and does this mean that you had some line-up problems at the time?

Yes, that was the other problem, because he had problems with drugs. That was too serious, because we couldn't even communicate with him and that was the only way - to give him a chance to do something with that. That's why we had the drummer of YATTERING as a guest, but finally Doc joined the band again and I really hope that nothing like this will ever happen again. I know, last year was pretty problematic for VADER, we had too many problems but after those changes we are now back to reality and can work as a band and as friends. We just had time to think about the problems and after all we realize that we are humans and after spending half of the year together, not everybody can stand it. Sometimes we need to talk and to decide about the future.

-In your opinion, what are the things, which distinguish VADER from the other Death Metal bands? What makes you so unique? Wow, I don't know, ha-ha! The music, maybe ourselves, I think everything, but you cannot know what makes you unique, because every person's pretty much unique. Maybe I have something like a talent given to me to use it and if there's so many people who can feel it, it means that I release my „odours“, ha-ha! I never think this way, I just try to do what I can do best and the only good way for us is to do what we do together, as friends.

-To whom would you dedicate your new album „Revelations“... to your family or maybe to the whole Metal world?

Every album released by VADER is dedicated to everybody... to everybody who's not afraid to deal with that, to all who believe in VADER. It's not necessary to make a special dedication, because everything we make, we make for those people who believe in music, who helped us when we had bad days.

-We heard of a possible DVD release of VADER. Can you tell us something about this DVD?

Our Polish promoter will gonna release it for the first time, but new in that is the several shots from a VADER tour from last year when we played with DYING FETUS and CRYPTOPSY. It's like seven songs of home recordings plus some additional interviews but the rest is exactly the same you can see in the „Vision And Voice“ VHS. The difference in the sound is way better ... it's made double surround and full stereo. The rest is exactly the same ... like „Vision And Voice“ and more.

-OK, I'm looking forward to seeing it! I wanted to ask you for a long time who is the person who managed to record such a murderous sound in „Live In Japan“? It has a smashing sound! The reason why the sound is so good is the reason why we chose Japan to make a live album. Every band that releases a live album from Japan sounds good, because that's probably the only one place where you can make it pretty professional. That was our very first show in Japan, so we never expected it gonna be so good, I mean we expected a good sound but we never expected so good a show at all! So, we just asked if it is possible to release a live album in Japan, that was not a problem, so we decided to make it! We recorded it on a multitrack system and mixed it in Red Studio working with the same guy we worked with on the „De Profundis“, „Sothis“ and „Litany“ albums. These were professional recordings from a good show, in a good studio and that's why you hear such a good sound from a live album. It's still live but if you record it live directly from the soundboard like we did on „The Darkest Age“ album it's different, it's hard to keep a good sound 'cause the sound for a good show is something different from a good sound for listeners. So if you record the instruments separately and directly from the amplifiers then you can mix it in the studio and make it sound exactly like the visitors of the show. That's why you can make a good sound even if it's still live. When the studio gives you so many possibilities, there are many bands lately that record their live albums in the studio and then just put the crowd. This is not VADER's case ... we record it directly from the show.

-That's exactly the case with a recent interview with the main editor of Rock Hard ... Goetz Kuehnemund. He said that in his opinion the „Live Insurrection“ album of HALFORD was recorded in the studio!

It sounds good. I like this album a lot...

-I also like it a lot but when I read the interview, I also thought that it sounded too good and polished, ha-ha! OK, Peter, is it

good or bad that now there are so many bands, labels, concerts...? Is it possible that the scene be overcrowded with bands and that leading to mediocrity?

I was pretty close to the Metal scene in the 80's and 90's when I had way more time. I spent more time at home and the correspondence between the bands happened more often and was easy. Now it's a big problem for me because I'm a really busy guy and sometimes it's really hard to find one or two days for myself to spend. Now, with my PC and the E-mail, I started to be again in touch with my old friends, because 98% of the people I now have an E-mail. Sometimes I wish to see more shows but I don't have the time to do it. I missed so many great shows and great bands, but this is the price I have to pay. We are working hard for what we get and I'm probably the busiest guy in the band. Maybe you will not believe, but since 1993, this year I will have a vacation for the first time, which means two months to spend! That's why we start the promotion for „Revelations“ in the middle of August. We need a rest; to spend some time with our families, go somewhere. I have a plan to visit some festivals, not as a part of it, but to see it and have beer, chat with friends like in the old days.

-Is your family used to your frequent absences from home already? I guess your kids are about 10 years of age, right? Yeah, they are 7 and 9 years old. They know that, they know my job and understand it and that's why we can call ourselves a family! It's hard for a woman to spend so much time without the father, without the man but this is destiny and what I try to do is to find out time for them like it is with this vacation ... to go somewhere together. I'm something like a mariner, y'know, always traveling somewhere... Maybe if I were Michael Jackson or someone like that it would be easier, but... ha-ha! With Death Metal I never expected an easy life!

-Would it be normal for a Death Metal band to record a love song? Is it possible for VADER to record a love song some day? Ha-ha, all songs are created with love! It depends on what you think love is. If there is the MTV sense of meaning in it, so probably never, ha-ha! If we are talking about love, because we are humans and we feel something like love in different meanings, we are never gonna make stupid things like talking in such a way like some bands do ... to get a lot of money and look good, it's not in this way.

-We made an interview with you some time ago and you said it is possible that some day in the future you can make a solo project out of VADER. When will this day come?

I don't know. To be honest, I'm still busy. I thought of doing it this year but as I told you, I'm on a vacation and if I would do something like a project, the only chance would be now. I mean in the summer, when we are not playing with VADER. What I know is that I used some ideas that I wrote for PANZERAXE (that

is the name of the side-project) in the „Revelations“ album. I found out that the only way to release the idea is to incorporate a part of it in VADER's music. If I have more time some day, I'll enter the studio and do a demo and if that's all right, I'll release a full-length album.

-Let's change the topic a bit. Are you worried by the fact that the Socialist Party stepped into power once again in Poland? Do you think Poland is developing in the right direction after the changes?

Y'know, I don't wanna talk about politics, especially in Poland, because this is unbelievably stupid. Sometimes when I watch the TV and the news, I cannot believe my eyes and my ears. The whole thing is that the old kids are playing but nobody pays for that. When the politicians are playing, the whole country has to pay for them and that's the problem. What these people need and what they have is the power and they already forgot about the rest of the world. It's pretty hard to understand the people who have nothing if they have everything. It's like that in the whole world ... the rich people will never understand the poor people. Of course they have their own problems, but their problems are different. They don't understand what is happening in the country, and it seems they don't care about that. The problem is that there are too many people without a job and too many crimes in the street, too many people without ideas and this is a problem.

-Who are Lukasz Szurminski and Pavel Frelik? Why are their lyrics so special to VADER?

Well, special because they are good in what they are doing. I co-operate with them for years, especially Pavel Frelik. His first lyrics for VADER was „Silent Empire“ and Lukasz Szurminski started one or two years ago when we were releasing „Reign Forever World“ and that was the start. „Revelations“ was like a big chance for him because he wrote more lyrics, which I used for that album. Of course every lyric written by anybody for VADER should be acceptable, I mean every song has to be some kind of a food for the imagination. You should have a chance to interpret that song. Each person may look at it from a different point of view. That's why we never talk about politics and about the problems just like this ... directly. If we have a problem we talk about it using different languages. That's why there are so many Metal lyrics that look stupid ... they're not if you understand 'em. But if the only thing you can understand is reality and money, you'll never understand the feeling of Metal at all. This is the main rule!

-Peter, what can you tell us about the guest appearances of Nergal and Urekk?

I will always be into co-operations and friendships in the Metal scene. I remember in the beginning if the 90's there was a big co-operation and the only way to survive as a Metal band in Poland was the co-operation and that's why we survived. The only way to keep the scene going on was to make shows in clubs on your own and then maybe visiting some other areas in



the country, because there weren't big shows back then. A few years ago something was going wrong in the Metal scene. There was something like a war in Death Metal ... whether it's true or not true ... stupid things like these. We should remember that we are all humans and friends after all and guest appearances are very nice! I think we will try to keep that idea in the future. If we get a chance to invite somebody for a song we're gonna do it. The only problem is that it's not possible every time. The friends we have are also busy, they've got their own lives. This time we had more time to prepare the friends and to prepare the part of the song for them and we made it! The idea was to invite more guests from the Polish scene but we couldn't do that because of the time.

-Do the radios in Poland play VADER songs? What about the TV?

If we're talking about VADER, the situation is not so bad, because we are pretty known outside Poland. Sometimes we are guests at TV shows or at radio stations but it's so small a thing that we cannot say we've got a good promotion in the Polish media. Metal in general is in a pretty bad situation. There are only a few radio stations in Poland, which are not afraid to play Metal at all, but this is like a drop in the sea ... it's nothing. What we can change is to try and talk with those friends responsible for that to take that risk and to invite Metal band in front of the cameras!

-And what about the guys at Metal Blade? Do they always satisfy your „pretensions“?

Ask them, ha-ha! I think both sides are happy with our co-operation so far.

-Peter, tell me something about the cover artwork. What does it symbolize?

It's like a view of the atmosphere of the album ... it's pretty apocalyptic. There are some symbols in the artwork which are pretty straight and some of them are hidden. As with our music, lyrics and the booklet we try to provoke your imagination, to find out symbols and secrets. That's what makes us unique and special. It's not good to explain every symbol and every part of the artwork, because usually if you explain something, everybody will see it in the same way. It's like when you see the movie before you read the book ... we don't wanna be a movie and that's why we don't wanna explain everything. The first look at it tells it's pretty apocalyptic.

-My last question will be what do you think of making a worldwide tour with some really big Heavy Metal band like IRON MAIDEN or W.A.S.P. for example? Would that be good for VADER?

Oh, no problem for us! If it's not a problem for IRON MAIDEN so we can do it! They will not play more than 45 minutes ... ha-ha ... I'm kidding! Of course that would be great, especially with bands like IRON MAIDEN, JUDAS PRIEST or SLAYER ... they pretty much influenced us before. If we are talking about SLAYER, PRIEST or BLACK SABBATH ... those bands were teachers for me, they teach me how to be a man and a musician. They showed me the way in the beginning when I was looking for signs, y'know, so they changed my life through their music. Until now, the only chance for me was to talk to the SLAYER guys and I'm surprised ... they're pretty nice guys. Probably we will play again, 'cause we supported them in Poland once and it would be great if we could do it again!





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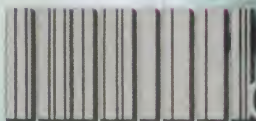
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HAGALAZ RUNEDANCE

Awakening Skadi...



VANYA MARINOVA

I suppose many Brutallica readers will freeze in dismay as soon as they see an interview with HAGALAZ' RUNEDANCE in a magazine being considered to deal with Death / Grind stuff basically. Well, as you might have noticed, Brutallica's last few issues included interviews with Metal bands such as RAVENTHRONE, HIN ONDE or FOREFATHER - bands the music of which is more or less inspired by the spirit of most ancient times... And it is not a secret that acts praising the Nordic mythological / occult traditions are numerous, aren't they? In for a penny, in for a pound - apart from being motivated by my own fascination of Andrea's music and concept for doing this interview, I also was eager of making you all feel the atmosphere of a world "carved in dragonheads and runes" by asking her some questions which she gave answers to both profuse and incredibly mature!

-Greetings, Andrea! At first I would like you to know that your new CD appealed to me a lot; it is just marvelous, congratulations! Thus, one of the subjects that „Frigga's Web“ deals with is Life and Death juxtaposing - does this have anything to do with the fact that the tracks „Hel - Goddess of the Underworld“ and „Frigga's Web“ are one by another?

Hel is the goddess of death and the underworld; she represents a darker side of femininity. Frigga is the queen of heavens, the guardian of women, children, the patroness of marriage and a good family life. She is invoked for an easy birth, but the myths show that she too is connected with death and the two goddesses show many similarities and thus both represent the circle of life and death. Understanding the mysteries of death is essential in order to understand the mysteries of life. It would take too long to explain the symbolism of the goddesses; you can read about it in my book „The Ancient Fires Of Midgard“.

-Do you have a favourite track on the album?

Well, yes, I guess there are two songs that are my absolute favourites. These are „Hel“, the first song, and „Albion Autumn“ - the latter because it's about my personal longing to England. All songs have a personal meaning to me, but this one is about a really intimate emotion. I feel very often that I miss England, so this is the song about that.

-The „Labyrinth“ text is written in your mother language - is this because the very track mirrors yourself basically?

No, this song was supposed to be in Norwegian, but I somehow couldn't get the right atmosphere across in Norwegian. The song is kind of dedicated to two pretty guys in my Viking re-enactment group; I saw them in front of me when I wrote the song. I was not satisfied with the Norwegian lyrics, and since the two men I had in mind also can speak German I translated the lyrics into German.

-HAGALAZ' RUNEDANCE is all about paganism. What do you think about the fact that many people nowadays are getting interested in paganism just because it's modern?

I don't like that they do it because it's modern, but I think it's a step in the right direction! When people get into it, they can get really interested in it and start reading about it and experience it. There are, for example, people who are just natural, who like the old traditions and don't like Christianity and thus get into paganism - that's fine, too. I know there are some who simply think it's modern, but they have no pagan spirit - they get bored and get out very soon. What I don't like is when people get into it and then start to misuse it with some strange ideas, start to spread racism, go about saying that they're pagans and they're Nazis... This is really harming the whole spirituality and the whole movement, because all the rest of us suffer from that - we have to tell people again and again that no, no, it's nothing like that at all! But in every movement and in every scene there are people who misuse it.

-What do you find in paganism yourself?

I just live my life as a pagan. This is not about being in the forest without any electricity and only doing rituals, it's just living your life and trying to be strong, to be healthy, to be yourself and think for yourself. This is what I'm doing. I'm also very fascinated by the old folklore, by myths and reading these, and I love to know what people thought a long time ago - these are all things

that are a part of my life, I just love doing it. For example, I like to meet my friends and discuss a lot of things, we discuss life and we philosophize about things and make music together, and go out together, go to cafes together... This is my life - I kind of seek out the energies that are around me, I try to communicate with the souls. I try to analyze my dreams and decide what is to do next, I celebrate the seasons... So I write about it, make music about it... it's a whole big part of my life.

-What stirred your interest in the ancient North European culture up and when does it date since?

I have always had a general interest in mythology, folklore and legends. I always have been different from the crowd, I thought much more about life and many things the 'ordinary' people did, did not make any sense to me. I reacted to the disrespectful way people treated nature and animals with, I reacted to disrespectful behaviour of men towards women. I couldn't believe that people just accepted this as being 'normal'. I was very fond of the American Indians as a child. When I saw this stupid film of Cowboys and Indians, I was so upset to see how the American Natives were demonised. I also always had magical abilities. I grew up with the feeling that there was something not normal with me. Nobody shared my interests or had my visions. In '88 I moved to London where I met Pagans and Occultists, amongst those Freya Aswynn and my Pagan career began. I lived in England for six years, where I have been a part of different occult orders and was working with various forms of magic. The more I studied about the myths, the runes and magic, I realised that the Germanic Pagans, my foremothers and fathers, had a very natural perception of life and a lot of knowledge about the universe. It just feels natural for me to walk the spiritual path of my ancestors. As I got more acquainted with Northern magic, rune magic etc., I learned about the art of Seidr magic, the oldest form of magic, a blend of shamanism and witchcraft, which was mainly practiced by women. My songs express my thoughts, feelings, dreams, visions and personal experiences. Some songs are also inspired by soul-journeys and Seidr rites. I always try to create a magical atmosphere. I think over the last years my music has become more personal. With my first HAGALAZ' RUNEDANCE album back in '98 I wanted to create Pagan folk music and tried to tell the world about the pagan concept. Now I simply express myself as a Pagan, focusing greatly on myself, my own experiences, also everyday experiences.

-Would you feel proud or merely happy in case your daughter starts walking your path when she grows up?

Her name means 'elf' and indeed she is a little elf. She is very special and everybody notices her and can see that there is something enchanting about her. She is a very mature little girl; she has a lot of understanding. I try to give her my awareness and encourage her to use her own magical abilities, she comes along to our Pagan gatherings and I bring her to the Viking markets I am staying at, so she is a part of my life. Of course like all other girls in her age she is really into Pokemon, Barbie, pink girly things and all other 'trendy' things kids love these days. I really try to encourage her to like Harry Potter now, which I consider to be an excellent influence for kids. What is most important for me is that she is happy and free and has the chance to develop herself into the person she wants to be. That she has experienced a lot

of love, security, harmony and kindness and can develop into an open-minded, confident person. As long as she will be open-minded, creative, has respect for nature, awareness towards nature's mysteries, love for animals and walks her way with strength and confidence, I am happy for her.

-I also know that you are into the WWF

- is this owing to the fact that you might be seeing something Vikingish / berserkerish in the game itself?

I don't really know what you mean. Since respect for nature and wild animals are very important to me, it is only natural that I support a nature protection group.

-Have you ever happened to dream of time machines?

Oh, yes, all the time. I would love to travel through time.

-Your nostalgia and sorrow for the past („The Home That I Will Never See“) reminded me of the way I felt myself after I read „The Silmarillion“ years ago... Do you like J. R. R. Tolkien and, in case you do, what do you think about the „Lord of the Rings“ filming?

I thought the film was great and had amazing scenes, really well done. Yes, I like Lord of the Rings; it is very much influenced by Northern mythology, or more specific Saxon mythology. However Tolkien was Christian. I find this a little odd and also disappointing.

-Speaking of books, how it goes with „The Ancient Fires of Midgard“ nowadays?

The book has been translated into German and hopefully will be translated into a Scandinavian language soon. There are not that many personal books about how to discover the wisdom for yourself in our modern world. I very much write about my own experiences, my way, encouraging others to find their own way. I tell the reader who is new to the subject that this is not a weird religion from the past or that Paganism is about difficult ceremonies one has to practice, but it is wisdom that already lives within us, waiting to be rediscovered. It is wisdom that connects us to Mother Nature. I concentrate on the psychological aspect, the meaning behind the myths and folktales and most importantly how to think in a Pagan way, and not in a Christian way... I feel there's a need for people to know about the imbalanced way of thinking in our society because the Christian Church has destroyed a lot of our natural way of thinking. I like to show how to understand the pagan myths; and how they make you understand yourself and also make men and women appreciate their different qualities. I write about herbs and the animal spirits and how to start to communicate with animals once again... What I'm trying to say is that paganism is about you yourself as a person and your place in nature, and how you can communicate with nature - because nature is in you, and finding your inner nature, you can be a part of nature in general.

-The photo gallery at your official site features a picture of you sitting with a large group of people by a heathen lodge near Leipzig - whom it belongs?

This photo was taken in the Pagan village in Leipzig at the Wave Gothic Treff in '99, where I was playing. After the HAGALAZ'

RUNEDANCE show I had a talk or lecture in the Pagan village about northern mythology and how to understand the myths.

-So let's go back to HAGALAZ' RUNEDANCE - do you believe in the namepower? What urged me to ask this question was the information about the ninth rune that I came across some time ago...

Hagalaz is a rune meaning hail, which also on a deeper level represents the mysterious side of femininity and is thus connected to Hel, the underworld of the North, the subconscious. It is the rune of the Völva ... the sooth-sayer and witch of the North, who explores the unknown in soul-journeys in order to bring wisdom into our world. Thus to me HAGALAZ' RUNEDANCE represents the dance in-between worlds.

-I still remember the day when I heard „Wake Skadi“ for the first time - I got goosebumps, I mean! As far as I could understand, Skadi appears to be the female aspect of Pride and Dignity in Scandinavian mythology; have you ever associated yourself with her? As I mentioned in my newsletters and in my book: Skadi is the goddess that I can identify myself mostly with. She is a fighter, a warrior, an independent woman, who also has dreams, and her character is very much like mine. I always had to fight for my right, fight alone, and tried to survive. Not because I wanted to, but because I had to.

-You may find this very question a bit ridiculous as this is an online interview but still I couldn't help asking: what do you think about Internet?

I think it is a great way of getting information, spreading my info and communicating with people, fast and efficient, it brings me closer to individuals from the other side of the globe, it is really amazing. But on the other hand it is quite negative as well because what has happened is that I have become very dependent on the computer, I need the computer to spread my art and thus I sit many hours in front of the computer and I hate sitting by the computer, because, naturally, I am an outdoors person. It has become easier to communicate with people, but thus many more people seek to communicate with me. I get so many e-mails per day that I have started to feel enslaved by the damn Internet. This is quite ironic, me, the freedom loving Pagan person is entrapped by the system. I have considered throwing away the computer. However in our modern times, we really need the net and I still try to prioritise my outdoors' activities, like training sword fight with my Viking re-enactment group and perform show fights at the Viking- and medieval markets.

Official HAGALAZ' RUNEDANCE site
<http://go.to/hagalaz-runedance>



A new beginning

Well, 2002 was certainly very fruitful for some of the leading Death Metal bands. In this year we witnessed the come outs of many smashing albums one of which was undoubtedly, "Yearning For the Grotesque" from the best Spanish band AVULSED. This interview with my good friend Dave Rotten will give you the opportunity of learning some more about the work upon the album and a lot of other things of course...

CHAVDAR TZACHKOV

-Hey there Dave. I hope you're in the mood of replying as you have just finished your new album... Could you say some more about it? The process of working I mean...

Hi Chavdar! Yes, I'm always in the mood of answering interviews, but unfortunately I don't have that much free time to do so, but anyway... it's a pleasure for me to answer a new interview for such a friend and such an Underground supporter like you! The new album was recorded in August 2002 and we're now waiting to see it released after 4 months. Initially, it was planned for November, but then our label thought it was going to be better to delay its release until January 2003, because precisely in November, they were releasing the new BEHEMOTH, CARPATHIAN FOREST and something else, so that would hurt in our promotion, and they decided to give us more priority in January. "Yearning For the Grotesque" has ten songs, mainly written during 2001 and the first half of 2002. Most of the songs were written by Furni, our drummer, who did five songs, then Juanca did two, Cabra one and Tana one. Then there's another song written by Furni & Cabra together. -In my opinion "Yearning for the Grotesque" sounds a bit more brutal than "Stabwound Orgasm"... Yet I could distinguish a lot of melodic solos as well... Could you juxtapose your latest release with the previous ones?

I'm glad you noticed that! Yes, I agree with you with the fact that our new album sounds a little bit more brutal than the previous one. It's also more intense and aggressive, but still retaining that dose of melodies we've always had in our music. I think our new album follows the steps of "Stabwound Orgasm" but with more mature compositions, better production and tighter playing. I believe this album is by far the best stuff we've ever recorded. Of course, all our previous releases have memorable songs that people still appreciate a lot (and we do too!) but this new album will show people who thought that "Stabwound Orgasm" was impossible to surpass, that we've been able to superate it!

-As though I felt some BOLT THROWER influences in your album, especially in "Fetivorous Marriage"... What inspired you to create "Yearning for the Grotesque" actually?

Well, yes, there are at least two riffs I could recognize on this album, that are quite in the vein of BOLT THROWER. Just listen to "Daddy Stew" too! Anyway, we've always recognized we're not an original band or that we came here to change the scene. We're just a Death Metal band and our influences come directly from the stuff we listened to when we were younger, you know... in late 80's and early 90's. Although we try to keep our sound fresh and up to date, I think our style is more old school oriented. What inspired us on "Y.F.T.G." was what has always inspired us: DEATH METAL! That's the music we love, play and listen to! We try not to imitate any band in particular, but our influences are there, you know... I think our "secret" is the ability of mixing such a heavy and brutal Death Metal with melodic passages. We try to do it with sense and quality. Sure we're not the most technical band, but the most important thing is the music itself!

-Did you make all vocal parts or were there any contributors (for the backing vox as well)?

This is the very first recording of AVULSED that had a vocal contribution! It wasn't planned! Was more like a casualty, because the guy who was doing the artwork was Bjorn Gosses, the vocalist of NIGHT IN GALES and he lived like 30 min. away from the studio, so he told me we would visit us to show us how the artwork was going, so then I thought he could do some guest vocals, because I was going to include some "aggressive" type of vocals on this album, and he would fit very well on it. There are some other "aggressive" vocals done by me apart of Bjorn's and this, together with my usual voice, makes this album even more varied, although the ultra-guttural vocals are still dominant, as always! By the way, I must say that my voice turned out lower and more brutal than what I expected, ha, ha! It wasn't my intention to do that, but well, perhaps that's a natural progression of my old rotting throat.

-What made you decide to do the mastering in Spain and not with James Murphy once again?

For this album, we never had James Murphy in mind, basically because we knew we weren't going through good times because of his cancer, and also because he doesn't have a studio anymore (I think), so then we thought about doing it at the Mega Wimp mastering studio in Berlin. I know Peter Neuber since ages, and for some very much into doing our mastering, but... I don't know... for some reason he wasn't able to handle it! We sent him the master after the recording and he was complaining all the time about the mix... he said he wasn't able to do a good mastering... He even suggested us to completely re-mix the album according to his own needs! We never heard that before! What? Re-mixing an album just for the mastering? No way! So we told him to send us back the master & the money and then we asked a friend of us, who already did sound for us in a big festival, and that also works in one of the best studios in Madrid, if he could do the mastering. He gladly accepted and the result was great!

-How did you manage to sign a contract with Avantgarde? By the way, do they plan of making a digipack version of the album (with some bonus tracks or multimedia part)?

Our deal with Avantgarde Music was more like a casualty! We never asked them to sign us! Since I know Roberto (the boss) since... maybe 1990 or before, we've always been good friends and then one day, I don't know how, I told him that AVULSED was searching for a label, and that we had some interest from labels like Wicked World & System Shock / Impact. That was like a com-

ment, you know, but then he asked me if we'd be interested in signing with them. I said "why not?". He didn't believe it at first, but yes, even if they don't have a reputation for Death Metal, I respect this label as a legendary one and I felt we would be well treated by them both in promotion and distribution. The album is coming out on a limited digipack edition of 2,000 copies. Nothing extra, just the digipack, you know. However, since there's so much demand in the Spanish market, they're doing a first edition of 1,000 CD's on regular version. 500 of them are for promotion and the other 500 for Spanish maniacs, to be sold during December.

-I saw your latest release's CD booklet in the net and I must say that it is awesomely extreme!!! Who's responsible for the layout?

As I mentioned before, the responsible for the album cover and the complete CD design and layout, is Bjorn Gosses from www.kills-illustrations.com also a vocalist in NIGHT IN GALES. Even though he never did any gore artwork before, I had the feeling he was able to do something great for us! We were looking for an artist to do computer designs by using real images. The guy in the cover is the manager of N.I.G., ha, ha! Bjorn did a photo session with him and then did the rest with his computer always in agreement with me by sending sketches via e-mail. Same happened with our individual pictures. We took them in our rehearsal place and then sent them to him by e-mail. The result is what you see!! I think the overall concept of the album is impactful! It perfectly mixes the brutal and gore concept of the band with a modern designing.

-How long did the recording process take?

The recordings took 15 days, just like our previous album, but this time we got a better result basically because the guys from the studio had a little bit more experience and we also were a little bit tighter than the 1st time, so now all songs are played more precisely and then the sound tends to be more powerful.

-As if I could feel you're being fond of Spacelab Studio? What makes this studio more special than the Swedish ones?

Well, when we recorded our previous album there no other Death Metal recorded before us. Only ANCIENT RITES was the only extreme band recording there, but you see... their sound has nothing similar to ours. The reason why we prefer a studio like that, is that since no other Death Metal bands record there, we're able to get our own sound. You know, in these famous Swedish studios, yes, you get very good productions, but in the end you're irremediably compared to other bands that have already recorded there, but here... we simply get our own sound! Besides that, the guys working there are really professional ones and they helped us not only with the production, but with some arrangements in our music! Also the fact that they included an apartment in the price... was definitely a bonus for them!

-Do you expect "Yearning for the Grotesque" to beat "Stabwound Orgasm" about selling points?

Yes, of course!! As I told you, this album is superior to "S.O." in every aspect!! Of course there are some cool hits in our previous album, and we are not repeating them here, but we also have some cool memorable songs in this album as well! I think this new album is a step forward in the band's career. You know... it's always important to give steps forward! Some bands find their way and then they keep doing always the same and then they become very predictable, but I think we're not repeating ourselves, specially because we don't have a definite sound... our sound is Death Metal and then we use many different kind of riffs in order to make our music as varied as possible, but in the end, sounding like AVULSED!

-Could you describe shortly each track from AVULSED's new CD both musically and lyrically?

"Wormeaten": Starts in a really brutal way, we choose this one, because this time we didn't want the album starting with an intro or something, but simply direct!! Lyrics talk about a guy that entered into calatonic state and then got buried, but when he woke up, he noticed he was being eaten by worms... "Devourer Of The Dead": Is some kind of tribute to the godly Swedish Death Metal bands of late 80's and early 90's. We included some cool pure Swedish rhythms on it. Lyrics talk about a man that feels the need of eating cadavers, but always before dawn... "Pale Red Blood": Is perhaps our fave song. It's based on Arabian riffing, just like the ones we have used before, but this time during all the song. Lyrics deal about a modern vampire that does not like to suck blood like a vulgar vampire... "Sick Sick Sack": This is perhaps the most brutal song we've ever done!! It's short (3 min.) and direct!! Lyrics talk about a guy who likes nasty necrophilia... "Daddy Stew": Is a more mid-tempo song. We like it very much!! It has no fast parts, but, as I told before, has some cool parts in the vein of BOLT THROWER with killer grooves. Lyrics are based on a real fact that happened in Australia, about a woman that killed her lover and then did a stew and gave it to her sons... "I Feel Good... Eating Human Flesh": Is also half Swedish and half... well... Death Metal. Brutal and melodic at the same time, with cool solos and choruses. Lyrics deal about a cannibal who feels better and better eating human flesh... "Fetivorous Marriage": We call it "the Black Metal song", ha, ha! Well, it's just because one of the riffs may remind to this style, but well... I love some smashing parts in the song and also the slow parts, that reminds me to darkest INCANTATION. Lyrics are about two cannibals (a man and a woman) that got married just to beget a foetus and eat it... "Mordid Death": It is the very first and still the only song done by Tana. Very melodic but intense. We didn't like it how it was in the very beginning, but we arranged it between all band members and now we like it a lot!!



Lyrics deal about a guy who works in a restaurant and uses human meat to feed his clients, but they don't know it... "Cadaver Decapitado" is another song in Spanish. Just to follow our tradition of including one song sung in Spanish in each album... It's also one of the most brutal songs, although it also has some killer dual guitar parts. Lyrics talk about a serial killer that likes to kill people and in the end he likes to take their heads as trophies... "Decrepit Sigh": To end with the album, we decided to do a total Doom song. Well, it's not the first time we do Doom stuff, because we already did it on the song "Carnivoracy" and even used violins!! But this time it's a slow Death Metal song, heavy and gloomy. Lyrics talk about a guy who feels his death is near and he's just waiting to get consumed.

-Why did Repulse closed gates, Dave?

It's a long story, but basically... we entered in a bad dynamic during the last years. We were three partners and things weren't working the good between us, so that affected the business side. I felt I was the only one with passion about this music and the other were just like working any other job. Only Toni, who was an employee (not partner) and me, were the only ones with strength to keep it going on. The financial side was a total disaster. The partner in charge of it had a very bad control over it and in the end, our bad financial situation, the CD-R bootlegging and MP3 bootlegging through internet, made sales going down at the same time, so I finally decided to put an end to this period and start a new label, now without partners.

-Could we say XTREEM MUSIC = REPULSE RECORDS (with any slight changes)?

Mmmm... well... I wouldn't say that. Perhaps the only thing in common is that I'm the mastermind behind it. Now in XTREEM MUSIC I'm the only boss, I don't have to share decisions with anyone else and now things are being done in a much more professional way. X.M. is also more focused on internet, because that's a way with infinite possibilities. As for the record label, we'll also keep signing extreme Metal bands, no matter if it's Death, Black or Doom as long as I like a band.

-Say some more about XTREEM MUSIC - what kind of bands do you expect to contact you? I still remember the awesome promotion that you did for CORPSE's "Mortal Terror", thanks...

XTREEM MUSIC started back in summer 2001 as a music portal. Not just a website, but a place where any extreme Metal fan could stay and find numerous resources. Then, in summer 2002, when REPULSE died, I decided to create a record label as well, because I didn't want to run two labels at the same time. My intention is, and has always been, to support the extreme Metal underground. It's obvious that my fave style is Death Metal, but I also like Black, Grind, Thrash, Doom... whatever that sounds extreme and appeals to me!!

-Do you have plans for new releases through Xtrem Music?

Yes, of course!! I have just released HUMAN MINCER "Embryonized", a killer brutal Death Metal band from Spain that reminds me to a much more brutal version of PYREXIA, but mixed with DISGORGE (USA) and DEVOURMENT. I've also released the second album by Russians ROSSOMAAHAR, Quareite Lux In Tenebris... an excellent Black Metal band!! Next to this I'll release the third album of Mexican gods DISGORGE, "Necrochoclost", a little bit more Death Metal oriented, but as brutal as always!! I think people will like this album much more!! After this, another Spanish band called USER NE. Their 2nd album, "Tarantos" is one of the most original pieces of Metal I've heard in a long time!! A mixture of Black, Death & Doom with folk elements. They have 14 members in the band!! After this I'll do the debut album of Italy's most brutal band HOUR OF PENANCE (Disturbance), a killer band in the vein of HATE ETERNAL, NILE... then I'll do the 4th album of Swedish motorcyclists PAGANIZER, "Murder Death Kill", a band that sounds like early GRAVE, but more brutal. For later 2003 I'll do albums by TOTTEN KORPS & ABADDON INCARNATE and I'll probably sign some other bands as well...

-I heard that you organize gigs in Spain! Which bands for, for example?

Yes, I've always been organizing shows!! My first show was organized in 1991, but it wasn't until 1999 until I became the Spanish branch of Matalyssee Agency, so I've been doing lots of dates in Spain for tours of bands like CANNIBAL CORPSE, KREATOR, IMMORTAL, MARDUK, MORTICIAN, MAYHEM, DARK FUNERAL, NILE, DYING FETUS, MALEVOLENT CREATION, VADER, BEHEMOTH... well... too many to mention!

-How it goes with the current Spanish Underground? Fans' preferences?

I think the Spanish scene is actually very healthy!! We have many good bands in different styles. Regarding Death we have HUMAN MINCER, MISTWEAVER, CHRIST DENIED, WORMED, CEREAL EFFUSION, ECZEMA, IMBUE, SCENT OF DEATH, IRREDUCTION... As for Grind, we have MACHETAZO, DENAK, ANAEMIA, GRUESOME STUFF RELISH, UNSANE CRISIS... In Black Metal we have ASGAROTH, USER NE, NUMEN, THE HERETIC, FATAL PORTRAIT, BERSERK, THE BLEEDING SUN, WITCHES' SABBATH, AMON HEH, DAEMONLORD.

-The 5 CDs from your collection which you would never leave?

There are many more... so it's a difficult question... Well, apart of my old Thrash Classics, talking only about Death Metal albums, I'd say: PYREXIA, "Sermon Of Mockery"; DEMIGOD, "Slumber Of Sullen Eyes"; INCANTATION, "Onward To Golgotha"; SUPPURATION, "The Cube" ENTOMBED, "Left Hand Path". Uh!! Shit! There're are many more! This question is hard!! The 1st GOREFEST, the 1st GRAVE, the 1st SUFFOCATION, the 2nd CARCASS, TERRORIZER, 1st MORBID ANGEL, ROTTREVORE, FUNEBRE, 1st UNLEASHED... many!!

-Your viewpoint about globalization and world terrorism? Have you ever thought that chaos is to be the ruler of this world?

To be honest, I don't know that much about that globalization thing... as for terrorism... well, it totally sucks because they're killing just innocent people... anyway, both things have more in common with politics and I don't really give a shit about politics. Anyway, chaos is not such a good idea to rule this world. That's an utopia, so we'll have to live like we're doing it. The man is the most stupid animal on earth and we're getting what we deserve!!

-Any plans for 2003? Concrete places for gigs?

Actually, our only plans are to play as much as we can all over Spain presenting our new album, and then we'll see if we can do an European tour around May / June, but we'll see about that...

-What do you hate most, Dave?

Human stupidity!! I can't believe how stupid a man can be!! Every day you find new forms of stupidity and you see you can't do anything about it, just live your life and fuck yourself!!

-Closing thoughts?

Thank Chavdar for the interview! You've always been a true supporter of AVULSED and we won't forget that!! I'd like to say hello to all our fans in Bulgaria and the rest of the world. If you ever have the chance to see us live... don't miss it, it'll be worth!! Buy our new album "Yearning For the Grotesque", don't copy it on CD-R from a friend... support the Underground!! If you can't find it anywhere, just write us and we'll sell it to you!! Check our website www.avulsed.com to be updated about the band's activity and keep the Underground spirit alive!! DEATH METAL RULES!



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CD REVIEWS

decibel rating 10 - Scorching; 9 - Excellent; 8 - Impressive; 7 - Good; 6 - Not Bad; 5 - Tolerable; 4 - Disappointing; 3, 2, 1 - Avoid

HAGALAZ RUNEDANCE

"Frigga's Web" CD
HAMMERHEART

Definitely one of the releases which I will always connect 2002 with is HAGALAZ RUNEDANCE's "Frigga's Web". Once more Lady Nebel opens the gate to a world filled with runic vibrations, sea-wave-whispers and Wiccan chants - a magnificent atmosphere created by her unique voice and the tunes of authentic instruments such as bagpipe, lyre and harp. On the whole, "Frigga's Web" offers nothing new stylistically but still I view this CD as a real soulstorm bringer as it fills me with rapture but also with sorrow caused by a sense of irrevocable loss - a new chapter added to the amalgam of yet known moods... The devoted HAGALAZ RUNEDANCE fans (will) certainly feel the same way as Andrea's latest release mirrors the souls of all those who keep on thinking of "the home they will never see". A home hidden in the labyrinth of Time...

Vanya Marinova

8,5

FLESHCRAWL

"Soulsinner" CD
METAL BLADE

Would you believe that a band, formed in the distant 1987, could create such freshy music that also shines with its directness (apparently) coming straight from the heart? However, "Soulsinner" is an album that demonstrates the musicians' routine as well, in comparison to the previous CD "As Blood Rains From The Sky" this one sounds a bit monotonous though and it was not that hard for me to feel the influence of the awesome BOLT THROWER here... Still I cannot deny that FLESHCRAWL make gorgeous and highly inspirational Death Metal!

Diliana Iankova

7,0

RED HARVEST

"Sick Transit Gloria Mundi" CD
NOCTURNAL ART

Finally my turn for hearing RED HARVEST's latest release did come too! Indeed I wasn't stunned from the very first time (like I was by "Cold Dark Matter") but, little by little, I managed to submerge fully into the atmosphere of "Sick Transit Gloria Mundi" and thus to find out that this return of the obscure quintet from Norway was not less colossal! This time the RED HARVEST team accentuated upon the uncompromising rifting rather than upon the special effects and what you eventually get is a relentlessly morose homage to cyberavishment, dehumanization and nuclear winter! Ultimately I would like to note that "Sick Transit Gloria Mundi" includes a killer surprise for all industrial connoisseurs namely RED HARVEST's brilliant re-vision of "Dead Man Don't Rape", originally created by the cult GFIH. Fix hammer fix!

Vanya Marinova

9,0

DAMNABLE

"Completely Devoted" CD
CUDGEL AGENCY

Definitely DAMNABLE are the most brutal Polish band that I've ever heard! Andy (guitar), Bayn (guitar, vocal) and Rolly (bass) attack with 12 pieces of merciless Grind / Death. The guys use programmed drums which make their music faster and more insane. I read in the info that they already have a drummer in the band so the line-up is complete. Gutural voice, smashing riffs, short and speedy guitar leads - this is what you'll find in "Completely Devoted". DAMNABLE exist since 1992 so they are experienced musicians and seem to be "completely devoted" to what they do. The album will appeal to the Death/Grind freaks especially those who like Polish bands like YATTERING for example. Another qualitative band from Poland is conquering the Underground so don't miss it!

Tsvetan Rachev

7,0

THE CROWN

"Crowned in Terror" CD
METAL BLADE

No doubt, this is the best release from THE CROWN ever! Every forthcoming album from these Swedish dudes displays their progress by revealing new aspects in their music - in general... "Crowned in Terror" includes 11 tracks that freeze the listener in rapture with the very first hearing to sweep her / him away from all brutal uncompromisingness. As a rule, the songs are generously laced with ultra fast passages but you could also enjoy the brilliant guitar solos distinguished both for their versatility and melody. In short, "Crowned in Terror" is a stunning Death Metal release with some Thrash riffing that only THE CROWN could create! And Johan Lindstrand's departure did not make THE CROWN's music worse at all in my opinion since the band's vocalist today is... Tomas Lindberg of the cult AT THE GATES! Do not let the shadows of doubt obsess you; the guys did their best once again! Hell is wherever THE CROWN dwell!

Diliana Iankova

10

SOLAR DAWN

"Equinoctium" CD
MIGHTY MUSIC

I'm not sure about who I'm already tired of all those melodic "Gothenburg" Death Metal bands who have nothing to offer but re-repeat the masters. Unfortunately SOLAR DAWN is such a band - predictable and not-so-heavy guitars, typical for the genre vocals and irritating melodic singing at places. There's a great influence from IN FLAMES, AMON AMARTH, DARK TRANQUILITY and almost no personal touch. "Equinoctium" is recorded at Abyss Studio (what a surprise, heh...) with Tommy Tagtgran as a producer so at least the sound is faultless. If you're a diehard fan of the "Gothenburg" sound and still have place in

your collection - try this CD. For all the other there are much worthier bands out there.

Tsvetan Rachev

5,0

DIABOLICAL

"A Thousand Deaths" CD
SCARLET

Finally after one MCD "Desert Of Desolation" and one full-length "Synergy" it's time for the second album of the Swedish quartet DIABOLICAL namely "A Thousand Deaths". After the intro, the first song "Children Of The Mushroom Cloud" explodes and you'll find yourself in the middle of a tornado of mad thrashing riffs, crazy intense drumming and vocals reminding me of Tomas Lindberg (AT THE GATES). DIABOLICAL's Death / Thrash Metal will make your heads move because "A Thousand Deaths" is possessed by the spirit of aggression - just hear "Until The Day Arrives" or "Dead Angel's Choir". The production is on a very high level (Underground Studios) and the cover artwork is impressive - it's done by Joe Petagno (MOTORHEAD, MARDUK). This music may create total massacre on live performances. DIABOLICAL have created one of the best Metal albums coming out from Sweden lately and they deserve praises for that.

Tsvetan Rachev

8,5

CORPSE

"Mortal Terror" CD
BRUTALICA Records

Undoubtedly "Mortal Terror" is a very special release. First of all this is the first Bulgarian Grind Core album released on a CD format. Second, CORPSE are one of the best known Underground bands in our country that have been unleashing the madness since 1995 with their legendary demo "Pathological Rotter". And last but not least what we have here is a true Grind Core in the vein of REPULSION and old NAPALM DEATH. There aren't many bands nowadays playing that kind of stuff - simple catchy riffs, fast and grinding drumming plus deranging vocals! There are 17 songs here + 5 live tracks - my favourite ones are "Spasm" and "Coprophilia" but all of them are great. "Mortal Terror" is pure energy and if you miss it you will regret it a lot!

Tsvetan Rachev

8,0

LMVDITY

"...Till Only The Sick Remains" CD
MORBID

"...Quit talkin' and just fuckin' SUCK!" - the intro ends and "A Woman's Place Is On My Face", the first track of the third LMVDITY album begins. We are talkin' about brutal Death / Grind with extreme porno lyrics dealin' with subjects about sex and perversion in all forms. LMVDITY have two studio albums and a live one behind their backs and in their new creation they have managed to avoid that monotony which is often met in other releases in this extreme style. Stable rhythm section with numerous tempo changes (James Whitehurst - drums and Aaron Heath - bass) and vocal dueling between the guitarists Dave Kibler and Matt Bishop. One of the voices is deep as hell while the other is insanely screeamy. Very good production - the BROKEN HOPE / NUN SKULL producer has worked on this album. Most of the songs start with funny intros where the word "pussy" is used pretty often. Quit talkin' and just hear the album - LMVDITY won't disappoint you! And by the way don't listen to this CD along with your girlfriend - no one knows what may happen...

Tsvetan Rachev

7,5

BURNT BY THE SUN

"Soundtrack To The Personal Revolution" CD
RELEASE

I really expected something more! Serious label, non-standard cover and titles of the songs...but the music is just boring! BURNT BY THE SUN play Metal Core with some Grind passages here and there but unfortunately all songs sound in one and the same way. I couldn't realize when one song finishes and when the other begins. I see this band as a harder version of SUPKNOT, the same modern Metal Core shit with more grinding rhythm - I suppose they'll gain popularity, especially in the States. BURNT BY THE SUN know how to play their instruments, that's beyond doubt, but their ideas are nothing new under the sun. Anyway, having in mind that this is their first full-length maybe they'll offer us something more interesting in the future. Wait and bleed...

Tsvetan Rachev

4,0

LUNATIC GODS

"The Wilderness" CD
SHINDY PRODUCTIONS

The third CD of the Slovakian LUNATIC GODS is one of the most varied albums I've come upon lately. As a whole they play Death Metal with Black and Doom Metal elements + atmospheric passages. There are two vocalists in LUNATIC GODS (Hórar and Emil) who offer great variety of voices - epic singing, Death Metal roars, blackish screams... Obviously LUNATIC GODS are open-minded musicians, they're not afraid to experiment and I respect that. In "Tormening World" and "Bemidbar" they even use cithara (performed by Jirko Dohnal) and it sounds mystic. If you still have doubts about their musical skills just hear the instrumental "Dance Of Salome" where Híraz (lead guitar) reveals his full potential. The album is recorded at Exponent Studio, the sound is faultless. I suppose that some people will find "The Wilderness" not-standard but for me LUNATIC GODS are like a gulp of fresh air having in mind all those boring shitty bands infecting the Underground today. If you're searching for qualitative and original Metal, "The Wilderness" is what you need!

Tsvetan Rachev

8,5

OBSCENITY

"Cold Blooded Murder" CD
MORBID

Before starting the review I must admit that I never became a huge OBSCENITY fan even though I've had the chance to listen to all their albums. Somehow they can't make my blood boil but this is just my per-

sonal opinion after all. So this is the sixth album of these Germans, not counting some compilation CD's. I think that if you've had the chance to listen to some of their previous works, you should know what you'll find in "Cold Blooded Murder" - fast brutal Death Metal with technical and skilled musicianship. Maybe this album is a bit more vocal than the previous ones but as a whole there aren't any obvious differences. "Cold Blooded Murder" is mastered at Morrisound Studios (a legend!) and the production is brilliant! If you're an OBSCENITY fan this album won't disappoint you for sure.

Tsvetan Rachev

7,0

PATHOLOGY STENCH

"Action Mutante" CD
SHINDY PRODUCTIONS

Another qualitative Slovakian Metal released via the Czech Shindy Prods. This is the long-awaited second album of one of the best Slovakian Death Metal bands in my opinion - PATHOLOGY STENCH. Their debut "Gluttony" released in 1997 appealed to me very much and now I see that "Action Mutante" is even stronger. Expect furious Death Metal with power which won't let you fall asleep. The production is on a very high level - Exponent Studio again. These Slovakian freaks will appeal to all Death Metal fans searching for brutal yet varied Metal.

Tsvetan Rachev

7,5

PESSIMIST

"Slaughtering The Faithful" CD
LOST DISCIPLE

"Blood For The Gods", the second effort of Maryland's PESSIMIST was an outstanding piece of blasting Death / Grind. Now it's time for the follow-up "Slaughtering The Faithful". PESSIMIST offer the typical for most US bands complex riffs and bass lines, technical grinding drumming and voice slightly reminding me of Glen Benton's. Some passages are obviously influenced by DECIDE or IMMOLATION but there's nothing wrong with it since PESSIMIST have their own sound. Producer of this album is none other but Erik Rutan (MORBID ANGEL / HATE ETERNAL) and Rick Roddy (formerly in MALEVOLENT CREATION) has helped with the recording of the CD. The guitar sound is faultless but the drums irritated me a bit, at places the solo drum sounds like beating a can. The cover artwork is done by Jon Zig, the one who makes the sick covers of DEEDS OF FLESH and HOUWITZER. The thing that PESSIMIST lacks is the catchiness of their riffs, at places they are too chaotic and you can hardly remember anything after so much technical playing. Anyway, "Slaughtering The Faithful" is a decent Death/Grind release and deserves attention.

Tsvetan Rachev

6,0

BLACK WITCHERY

"Desecration Of The Holy Kingdom" CD
FULLMOON

I really hate those MAYHEM wannabees! BLACK WITCHERY are just the consecutive see-my-evil-face MAYHEM / DARKTHRONE clone. As you have already guessed here we have Black Metal with dirty production and nothing to be remembered with. The riffs are so monotonous that I have the feeling that I'm listening to robots instead of people. I think they are an American band and one of the worst Black Metal I've heard has come from US...BLACK WITCHERY's not an exception!

Tsvetan Rachev

3,0

BEYOND THE EMBRACE

"Against The Elements" CD
METAL BLADE

Let's see what Metal Blade has to offer...When I read in the info that BEYOND THE EMBRACE have three guitarists in their line-up and their style is melodic Death Metal I thought, "Shit, another Gothenburg-sounding band". Well, in fact they are from Massachusetts and do have some Swedish influence - IN FLAMES, SOILWORK... Fortunately, things doesn't end here. Shawn Gallagher's voice can sound like Anders Fridén (IN FLAMES) or clear and depressive. The guitar riffs weave IRON MAIDEN like duels, there's also a slight Bay Area Speed/Thrash influence. The production is on a very high level - "Against The Elements" is recorded at Trident Studio by Juan Urteaga. BEYOND THE EMBRACE offer qualitative mix of Power and Death Metal combined with impressive musicianship, talented vocals and crystal-clear sound. Decide for yourselves...

Tsvetan Rachev

6,5

MINCING FURY AND GUTTURAL CLAMOUR OF QUEER DECAY

"Lamentations" CD
BIZARRE LEPROUS

What a name! I had to read it five times for remembering it. And what do you think is the music of a band with such a name and a CD released via one of the most respected Gore Grind labels namely Bizarre Leprous?! Total devastation! Ultra fast grinding swaths, blasting guitar attacks and distorted voices from hell. MINCING... come from the Czech Republic and I suppose that their ferocious Gore Grind have won them true fans. They have put samplers here and there between the songs, mainly from porno movies. "Lamentations" ends with a long dialogue which is in Czech and I can't get a word. Anyway, this is for true maniacs only - if you consider yourself as a Grind freak, MINCING... will crush you down!

Tsvetan Rachev

8,0

BLOODY COMP. III

"Compilation CD" CD
BLOODY Productions

The third part of Bloody Compilation offers 16 Black/Death Metal bands all coming from Spain. Openers are BAALPHEGOR with technical brutal Death Metal, Florida's style. After them come BLACK TEAR playing Swedish influenced Death / Black Metal - fast riffing, remarkable guitar duels and diabolical screams! Next are CHAMBER OF SHRED - brutal

Death Metal with really heavy sound reminding me of IMMOLATION. Then come CHIRIAETH - Pagan Black Metal with a demo sound starting with melodic intro and passing into extreme harsh riffing combined with flute tunes! DAEMONLOD sound fifty, they offer very extreme Black / Death Metal with programmed drums. After them come DYSPHRAXIA - they're trying to play technical Death Metal but I didn't like their sound: weak guitars without the required for the style dense sounding. FOSCOR play raw and aggressive Black Metal in the best traditions of the Scandinavian scene. JIGSORE follow with their insane mid-tempo Gore Death Metal. LAPIDATED are next - brutal Death / Grind with a drum machine and distorted vocals. LUCIFUGUM offer Black Metal with some Doom elements. MYDARGO is the band of the man responsible for this compilation - they play fast Black Metal with slight Death Metal influence. NUNEN consists of seven members who try to play Black/Death Metal and use bagpipes together with the traditional Metal instruments. SCENT OF DEATH follow with technical Death Metal but the guitar sound is really bad, the voice is too weak... SUFFERING DOWN come from the Basque part of Spain and lay down some really original tunes - Black Metal riffing combined with deep grunts, unholy screams and clank singing + atmospheric keyboards - I liked this band a lot! WITCHES' SABBATH play extreme Black Metal with a total demo sound, nothing special. Last is XERION - I think this is a one - man project, he creates Pagan Black Metal with pleasant melodies on keyboards and programmed drums. So as a whole this is an interesting CD and if you want to know more about Spain's Underground bands, BLOODY COMPILATION may be very useful!

Tsvetan Rachev

6,5

WAR, VICTORY, JUDGMENT & DEATH

"Compilation CD" CD
KALY Production

This comp. CD has 14 French bands. The first band is MALEFICENTIA - modern symphonic Black Metal, too melodic for my taste but the fans of CATAMENIA / MYSTIC CIRCLE will probably like this. Next are DARK-EN - Dark / Death Metal with Doom elements creating hard, depressive atmosphere, very good band. CIRGE show us something really psychotic - Death / Black Metal with monstrous vocals, atmospheric keyboards and female vocals, total psychot after them come one of my favourites - the brutal French grinders INHUMATE. They participate with two songs in their unique furious Grind Core style. The mood changes totally when you hear the piano introduction of SEMPERPARVA - as I see it they try to play Death Metal with folk elements but I didn't like it at all - they just made me laugh. Total change again - STHYGMA burst out with merciless brutal Death / Grind. INDRAZOR are next with their mixture of Gothic and Black Metal and all of a sudden their music transmits into absolute grinding chaos at the end, that's a surprise! DEPRAVED didn't surprise me at all - the same smashing Death / Grind that's for real maniacs only! After them come EDELWEISS - Death Metal with numerous tempo changes and instrumental improvisations. Next are UNHEALTHY DREAMS - Black / Death Metal with a strong keyboard presence but nothing original. DEMENTIA offer melodic Death Metal reminding me of the Greek goth SEPTIC FLESH to some extent. After that we have ERESHKIGAL - the Greek goth is like taken from the first album of CRADLE OF FILTH, especially the synths. Another brutal Death Metal act follows - KROMOS, very good band. Last are APOPLEXY that strike with technical Death Metal. This comp is an evidence that the French scene has very active Underground - if you want to know at least a small part of it, get this CD now!

Tsvetan Rachev

7,0

WAGING THE WAR

"Compilation CD" CD
SEPULCHRAL Productions

The Canadian Sepulchral Prods has set itself the task to bring back the feeling of the true Black Metal as it sounded in the early 90's. The "Waging The War" compilation is the weapon - it contains tracks from 17 Black Metal bands all of them with exclusive / rare songs or different remixes of original versions. Openers are ANTEAUS from France - ultra extreme Black Metal in the vein of MARDUK. Next we have something from the Balkans - the Romanian NEGURA BUNGET who strike with mid-tempo Black Metal with cosmic synths. HORNA from Finland attack with ferocious mix of Black / Thrash Metal. It's time for one of the true masters - the mighty RAGNAROK who participate with one track from their highly acclaimed "Diabolical Age" CD. After them come FROZEN SHADOV'S - a whirlwind of demonic screams and harsh riffs. Another well-known band LORD BELIAL who have recorded exclusively for this comp the version of MERCYFUL FATE's "Come To The Sabbath". The Canadians ESKER follow with ordinary Black Metal and awful vocals. GARWALL come from France and strike with relentless sound influenced from MAYHEM. Next come the Finns THY PRIMORDIAL who play melodic and epic Black Metal. NOSTRE DRAMA from Canada doesn't offer anything interesting - just an average band with a shitty sound. The same can be said about CESTIA - and what a vocal! It makes me laugh! THE BURNING are included with a rehearsal track so the sound is totally Underground but for me it sounds better than some studio productions. After their good debut VENERFUM are back again with one track in their symphonic Black Metal style in the vein of LAMBIC ART. AZAGHAL from Finland are next but their playing is too chaotic. Denmark's DEMON REALM are just a joke, I can't take such a band seriously. The end comes with the spiteful Black Metal of WINTER OF THE BLACK SKIES. Undoubtedly this is a serious compilation which should be possessed by every true Black Metal fan. I have some remarks regarding the cover artwork which is more suitable for a comics book than for a CD like this. Anyway, this is not such a problem - music is what really matters. Buy this CD and as ANTEAUS say, "CUT YOUR FLESH - WORSHIP SATAN!"

Tsvetan Rachev

7,5

PREJUDICE

"Reality" CD
FREBBREATH / T. E. Records

In their second album the Belgians PREJUDICE offer a solid mixture of Death Metal and Hard Core. I don't find their music so inspiring mainly because the brutal sound is spoiled by senseless technical performances. This CD has its good moments but it cannot outstand from the hundreds of similar releases every year. PREJUDICE would have sounded as a simple and more straightforward Metal Core band if they didn't


Kill the tempo with complex rhythms. They have played in many countries around Europe, they're well experienced but the originality lacks... Maybe their third album will be better.
Tsvetan Rachev.....6.0

PSYCHRIST
"Debauching The Minions" CD
DISSIDENT RECORDS



I was impressed by PSYCHRIST's debut "Embrace Rapture In Disgust" and my expectations towards its follow-up were great. I'm glad that these Australians didn't disappoint me... "Debauching The Minions" is a high-quality brutal Death Metal album with a killer sound. PSYCHRIST mix influences from the American Death Metal school, the oldschool Swedish Death Metal and some diabolical Black Metal attacks in the vein of EMPEROR. The songs are heavy and brutal enough to bring pleasure to every underground freak. The production is on a high level, the sound's just crushing! "Debauching The Minions" is one of the best Death Metal works for the year and you'll miss much if you don't give a listen to PSYCHRIST!
Tsvetan Rachev.....8.5

INTERNECINE
"The Book Of Lambs" CD
HAMMERHEART




After 9 years of hardworking MORBID ANGEL's and HATE ETERNAL's Jared Anderson comes up with his own side project INTERNECINE! Thus, here he is responsible for all bass, guitar and vocal parts yet he has written all lyrics for "The Book Of Lambs". MORBID ANGEL CORPSE's / NILE's Tony Laureano and HATE ETERNAL's Denik Roddy have recorded the drum parts and ultimately Eric Butan (MORBID ANGEL, HATE ETERNAL), apart from being the producer of the album itself, has guested with some guitar solos. I guess all the fans of the outfits I mentioned as yet should be enjoying their idols' charismatic performances once more by hearing another piece of rhythmic and relentlessly brutal Death Metal, something that rips totally! Still, INTERNECINE have nothing to do with MORBID ANGEL in case some of you might have thought so. The CD cover shines bright with its originality and defiance.
Diliana Iankova.....8.5

PHANTASMA
"Gospel" CD
DOWNFALL RECORDS



You may find this description strange but in my opinion this outfit plays Death / Black Metal with keyboards and guitar solos suitable for a Power / Progressive band rather than for the genres which PHANTASMA is orientated to... Anyway, the vocals extend from insane vociferations to ferocious grunts and actually impress with their versatility. I could distinguish some moments of chaos in this CD that make me feel too confused for creating stable attitude but still I consider PHANTASMA as a very interesting band the music of which is noticeable for its energy and vividness!
Diliana Iankova.....7.0

VULGAR PIGEONS
"Summary Execution" CD
DEATHWOMIT



Do you remember the crazy vocalist of BENJUMB? Paul Pontikoff is here again together with John Gately (drums, also in BENJUMB), Jeff Lenemard (guitar) and Mike Gilbert (guitars and grunts). Under the name VULGAR PIGEONS (ain't that original?) they attack your ears with 26 tracks of furious Noise/Grind. There's strong BRUTAL TRUTH (R.I.P.) influence but VULGAR PIGEONS are more noisy and more deranging - just hear Paul's hysterical screams. Some brutal Death Metal passages appear here and there together with some hardcore parts. The lyrics are socially orientated against police ("Police = Shit", "Fuck The Police") or exploitation ("Flip Off Your Boss"). This is VP's debut and it will certainly please the Noise/Grind maniacs - you push play...and the Earth dies!
Tsvetan Rachev.....6.5

BLOOD RED THRONE
"A Taste For Blood" MCD
HAMMERHEART




Here is another band featuring Tchort (EMPEROR, SATYRICON, EINHERJER and GREEN CARNATION) and Dod (SATYRICON). Thus, this MCD includes the 3 songs from the "Deathmix" promo since 2000, 1 from "Monument Of Death", a track from the (unreleased) Nordic Metal II compilation plus a cover of MASSACRE's "Cryptic Realms". As for my impression, I view "A Taste For Blood" as another challenge from Tchort and Dod - uncompromisingly brutal and topnotch Death Metal performed with enviable skill and boundless, arse kicking angst! The production is untouchable too.
Diliana Iankova.....7.5

SERRATED SCALPEL
"Suspended In Misery" CD
Self Released




It's a shame that such a strong and promising band like SERRATED SCALPEL had to release its debut album without a label support. This Canadian band lays down some striking brutal Death Metal influenced by CRYPTOPSY, KATAKLYSM, NILE, etc... Chuck Labossiere's voice (formerly IMMORTAL POSSESSION) is deep and furious, reminding me of SUFFOCATION's mighty threat Frank. Jack Sacher (guitar), Joe Wiebe (bass) and Josh Ngolls (drums) create a smashing sound including technical Death Metal breaks, Grind swaths or even some Black Metal riffs. There are samples from "The Matrix" and other movies so I guess their lyrics deal with similar matters. SERRATED SCALPEL are far away from the average Death/Grind band so this CD is intended to everybody who is in search of fresh brutal bands - check this one out too!
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.5

FANGORN
"Fangorn" CD
G.U.C.




This is the third album from Germany's FANGORN. I regard it as a Death Metal release as a whole but still I could distinguish some Thrash, Black and even Atmospheric shades. This all is faced with rather interesting vocals (both male and female) which make "Fangorn" more unique... There is plenty of melodic moments here but I could also feel some monotony in moments and that gets me really bored.
Diliana Iankova.....6.75

PULVERIZER
"Second To None" MCD



The cult Swedish outfit PULVERIZER is back after years of silence. "Second To None" is 100% METAL, a mix of Thrash and Death, played in the oldschool way of POSSESSED, DEATH, SLAUGHTER etc... You won't find here neither keyboards and samples nor female singing, it's just simple: brutal riffs, head banging tempo and rough voice. If you miss the mid 80's sound find PULVERIZER and hear what they've got to say. At least they are a classic band.
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

SCALPLOCK
"Spread The Gerns...over the Human Worms" CD
CACOPHONOUS



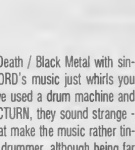
I really cannot comprehend all those people who keep on exploiting music for expressing their political views! Yeah, here is what I read from this brutal Hard Core band... to the recurring tactics of governments (USA and Israel) in dehumanising people in order to justify their brutalisation... I don't know about you but I am against this involving of policy in music, this is a sort of defilement I guess. Moreover, one could hardly believe in what SCALPLOCK actually stand for while listening to such brutal riffing...
Diliana Iankova.....5.5

REGORGE
"Kingdoms Of Deserion" CD
DEAD AGAIN RECORDS



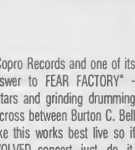
REGORGE is the first Death Metal band from Scotland which I've come across. Before hearing them I associated the Scottish extreme music only with EXPLOITED but REGORGE are ten times heavier than the Punk idols. Brutal Death Metal influenced by EXHUMED, LIVIDITY, etc is what you'll find in "Kingdoms Of Deserion". The songs are unusually long for this style (the opener "Path Of God" is more than 7 min.) but surprisingly they don't become boring because of REGORGE's instrumental skill and interesting ideas. The inhuman growls of Richy Graham and the screams of Phil Wilson (also on bass) won't let you fall asleep. There are many tempo changes in every song, the guitarist Ged Leitch and the drummer John Lee have done their job perfectly. The cover artwork is made by the infamous John Zigand, it's impressive. REGORGE have opened for masters like NILE, MARDUK, MALEVOLENT CREATION and so on... Obviously they are experienced musicians... "Kingdoms Of Deserion" will please every true Death METAL fan craving for brutal and qualitative music.
Tsvetan Rachev.....8.0

DEMONLORD / NOCTURN
"Spill" CD
DOWNFALL RECORDS




Thus, the first band on this split CD plays Death / Black Metal with sinister grunts. Cool combo I think, DEMONLORD's music just whirls you in its vital rhythm but the guys seem to have used a drum machine and this doesn't appeal to me really. As for NOCTURN, they sound strange - Black Metal with lead organlike key parts that make the music rather tinsel... The vocals are pretty crowsish and the drummer, although being far from bad, demonstrates too much zeal and appears to be kind of pretentious with this in my opinion. You could barely see the red line here.
Diliana Iankova.....6.75 / 6.0

DEVOLVED
"Technologies" CD
CASSET MUSIC



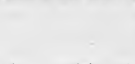
Cassette Music is a division of the UK label Copro Records and one of its releases is the so called "Australian answer to FEAR FACTORY" - DEVOLVED. This band combines heavy guitars and grinding drumming with samples and synths. The vocals are a cross between Burton C. Bell (FF) and Corey Taylor (SLIPKNOT). Stuff like this works best live so if you have the chance to go to a DEVOLVED concert just do it. "Technologies" is DEVOLVED's debut so they have to work ahead if they want to release such a killer album as "Demanufacture" for example. Time will tell if they will succeed or not.
Tsvetan Rachev.....6.5

CADAVERIA
"The Shadows' Madame" CD
SCARLET



CADAVERIA is the new band of OPERA IX's ex-singer Cadaveria who is also surrounded by Regias (formerly in OPERA IX and NECRODEATH) and Killer Bob (NECRODEATH). Thus, "The Shadows' Madame" is the band's debut CD and it sounds brilliant! Styewise the album is hard to be framed as it deals with Death, Black, Gothic and Heavy Metal simultaneously and one could distinguish plenty of Atmospheric moods as well. In brief, this is a marvelous release that fits its name perfectly and Cadaveria's unique vocals contribute to the magnificence of "The Shadows' Madame" enormously with their elasticity ranging from unholy manlike growls to alt singing. Check this fascinating album out, I am sure you will enjoy it hell of a lot!
Diliana Iankova.....9.0

BURIAL MOUND
"Black Death" CD
SOUND RIOT



That's a good title for an album - you know what to expect before pushing "play" on your CD player. BURIAL MOUND play classic Death Metal

influenced from some European oldschool goth like GRAVE and SEANCE. Production is more average, every instrument can be heard even though I would prefer the heavier sound of the guitars. There are some chaotic moments that spoil the good impression. The vocals are deep, sometimes growing into Black Metal screams. It's always a pleasure to hear a record carrying some of the good old Death Metal spirit and "Black Death" is such a record so this is for you, oldschool fans!
Tsvetan Rachev.....7.0

CRYSTALIUM
"De Aeternitate Commando" CD
ADPOCERE




This is the second CD from this French band and the first which I come across. I find the production really impressive and the music is not less cool: war symphony Black Metal with lyrics in French and in screaming level this language sounds just gorgeous, believe me! And I wonder how would French sound in Death Metal... Anyways, the fact that CRYSTALIUM have chosen to write the lyrics in their mother language makes them more unique. As for the music itself, synth parts predominate but you could also feel some influence from Norway's oldschool Black Metal sound. Hear for yourselves though.
Diliana Iankova.....7.5

AEBa
"Rebellion - Edens Ascle" CD
LAST EPISODE



I listened carefully to "Rebellion..." and I was convinced in one thing... with their third album AEBa have left all the other Black Metal bands in Germany behind their backs. "Rebellion..." is the best Black Metal record coming out of Deutschland in the last few years. I know that AGATHODAIMON and MYSTIC CIRCLE are pretending to be German Black Metal No. 1 but AEBa are better! "Rebellion..." is full of extreme but catchy riffs, aggressive yet varied drumming and majestic keyboards which create the dark atmosphere against the background of which you could hear words spoken in English and German with an infernal voice. Save the furious Black Metal moods there are some mad Thrash Metal and Dark/Gothic moments... This is one of the few Black Metal records where I can hear the bass parts clear without distorting effects. The producer has done great work. If you want high-quality Black Metal don't miss this album - it's one of those records that show there's still something fresh and new in the Black Metal field.
Tsvetan Rachev.....9.0

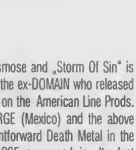
SHEPHERD OF SHEOUL
"Fear Beneath The Tears" CD
MUTE RECORDS



Emmm... I meet serious difficulties with describing what this outfit is exactly like... "Fear Beneath The Tears" appears to be a Heavy / Death Metal CD with solely keyboard compositions in some places plus

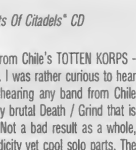
female singing and male vocals like done by a... rap singer. There are harsher vocals as well but still I could also feel some Pop moods in SHEPHERD OF SHEOUL's music and this confused me totally! As if these folks still have not chosen the genre which to play in...
Diliana Iankova.....4.0

RAVAGER
"Storm Of Sin" CD
OSMOSE



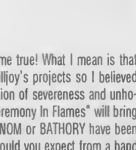
RAVAGER are the first Mexican band on Osmose and "Storm Of Sin" is their full-length debut. In fact RAVAGER are the ex-DOMAIN who released one demo tape and a split with DEMONIZED on the American Line Prods. Their line-up includes members of DISGORGE (Medico) and the above mentioned DEMONIZED. The style is straightforward Death Metal in the vein of MORBID ANGEL and ANGEL CORPSE expressed in ultra-fast drumming and speedy guitar riffs. There are some Black Metal moments but as a whole this is an extreme Death Metal release. But I found DOMAIN more extreme and more grinding than RAVAGER anyway. Nevertheless, despite the fact that there's a great MORBID ANGEL influence (which is of no wonder having in mind that the producer of this record is PUNCHY GONZALES, the ex-live sound man for MORBID ANGEL) this is a good Death Metal piece coming from Mexico.
Tsvetan Rachev.....6.5

TOTTEN KORPS
"Tharmheim: Atli-Land-Nhi; Ciclopean Crypts Of Citadels" CD
REPULSE (R.I.P.)



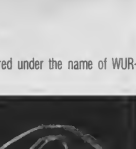
Well, this is the first ever release coming from Chile's TOTTEN KORPS - a band that has been existing for 15 years. I was rather curious to hear them for I haven't had the opportunity of hearing any band from Chile as yet. So TOTTEN KORPS offer enormously brutal Death / Grind that is not for all. This guys are extreme! Not a bad result as a whole, the rapid riffs are not bereft of some melody yet cool solo parts. The sound quality is far from bad as well, I believe fans of bands like NILE or DERANGED will like it hell of a lot.
Diliana Iankova.....6.0

WURDULAK
"Ceremony In Flames" CD
BAPHOMET



Finally my dream of hearing this band came true! What I mean is that I am a huge fan of NECROPHAGIA and Kiljoy's projects so I believed that WURDULAK was to offer another portion of severeness and unholliness. And I guessed right! Seriously, "Ceremony In Flames" will bring you nearly 20 years back, folks, when VENOM or BATHORY have been at their creative apexes! Hell yeah, what could you expect from a band that save Kiljoy also features MAYHEM's Maniac, Iscariath (IMMORTAL), Frediablo (GORELORD), Jehmod (BLOODTHORN), Ithazah (PERISHED) and Fug (SOUL FORSAKEN)! Lay down your souls to the Gods/Rock'n'Roll NOW!
Vanya Marinova.....7.5

WURDULAK
"Severed Eyes Of Possession" CD
SEASON OF MIST



The pleaed of extreme Metal fates gathered under the name of WUR-



DULCA (taken from B. Bava's film "Black Sabbath" and meaning blood-drinking corpse) have created an album that beats the previous "Ceremony In Flames" totally with its deranging velocity and sickening riffage! Some people definitely don't waste their time in watching horror movies only but have found a bottomless inspiration source and exploit it in the best possible way. Hail!

Vanya Marinova.....7.75

ALABAMA THUNDERPUSSY
"Staring at the Divine" CD
RELAPSE



"Striving..." is the fourth release of this outfit from Richmond, Virginia. Well, what else could I say save this that I am undeniably happy for being given the chance to add this masterpiece to my Stoner Rock collection! In other words, these "road dogs" (spending 6-8 months per year in touring!) are back for leading you to an unforgettable journey across the dusk-bathed prairie to leave you at the end filled with boundlessly sweet nostalgia for the psychedelic 70's... What is most ridiculous here is that I speak of a period that I have nothing to do with as I have been like 2-3 years old back then but... that's the way I felt like while listening to ALABAMA THUNDERPUSSY's latest CD.

Vanya Marinova.....7.75

MALLEUS MALEFICARUM
"Tedium Vitae" CD
ADOPECRE

This is the second album in the discography of the French MALLEUS MALEFICARUM (formed in 1997) and I couldn't say that I feel really delighted by what I am listening to at the moment. The tracks are performed both with vigour and skill is doubtless but I find this release tediously monotonous though. Average Black/Death Metal, that's what it is all about.

Vanya Marinova.....5.5

BURNER
"One For The Road" CD
ARCTIC MUSIC



Wow, this is far from bad! The debut CD of BURNER from Florida is a true reflection of the members' wide spectrum of musical interests and routine acquired by their participations in various bands previously (RAPED APE / PAINGOD, JENGA, MONSTROSITY etc.). "One For The Road" is an intriguing mixture of Rock, Metal and Hard Core and I am recommending this CD to all of you who seek versatility in music as a whole.

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

RAM-ZET
"Escape" CD
SPIKEFARM



I still remember how fascinated I was of the debut of the Norwegians RAM-ZET ("Pure Therapy"), so my heart filled with a great deal of joy when I was sent their second CD for reviewing as well! Once more Zet and Co open for the listener gates to their world obscure created by elegantly weird synth and violin moments, Zet's haunting vocals and Saretas' spectrally dulcet voice. No changes stylistically except for this that "Escape" seems to be faster and more relentless in riffing. A marvelous return anyway!

Vanya Marinova.....8.5

JUDAS ISCARIOT
"Moonlight Butchery" MCD
NO COLOURS

Ehmm...what I could only say is that this is another portion of rough Black Metal from the one man project JUDAS ISCARIOT. I was the reviewer of his previous "Dethroned, Conquered And Forgotten" CD and it seemed to sound better... Except for the weird samples inserted here and there, "Moonlight Butchery" shines with nothing original. As tedious as a prim trade.

Vanya Marinova.....4.5

VACANT STARE
"Vindication" CD
COPRO Records

Here is another catchy release from a Nu Metal band. "Vindication" is Vacant Stare's first ever release and what makes it noticeable and attractive is its versatility and incandescence. Vocals range from plain and melancholic singing to cries of desperation and outrage and fit perfectly the music itself.

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

JUDAS ISCARIOT
"To Embrace The Corpses Bleeding" CD
RED STREAM

Well, this what I hear sounds far better than the "Moonlight Butchery" MCD! To Embrace The Corpses Bleeding "offers ultra-fast and severe Black Metal and swirls the listener back in time by resurrecting the memories of cult albums such as "Pure Holocaust", "The Celtic Winter" or "Opus Nocturne"... I will be looking forward to hear JUDAS ISCARIOT's next CD!

Vanya Marinova.....6.0

KHANATE
"Khanate" CD
SOUTHERN LORD



I will most certainly make you all laugh your guts out but I must admit that I read the name of KHANATE for a first time on the Jester message board this spring... Anyways, I was finally given the opportunity to hear the s/d debut of this band from NYC for myself and what it strongly reminded me of in the very first moment was UNHOLY's "From The Shadows" and (slightly) TYPE O NEGATIVE! Finally slow and ponderous riffs garnished with psychotic vocalizations is what "Khanate" is about - a CD calling associations of subterranean ghastliness and graven desolation...

Vanya Marinova.....8.0

ABRASIVE
"Desire" MCD
Self Released

Honestly speaking, I am not into Grind bands that much so I am the worst possible reviewer in this case... Still I recommend ABRASIVE's MCD to all those who stand for sickness and brutality in music. What the band deals with lyrically is erotic and sexual desires and the samples of female lustful sighs inserted in the very album are the (additional) clue. As for live activity, the Germans have played with HYPNOS, DIS-BELIEF, BLOOD, DEMENTOR, etc.

Vanya Marinova.....6.0

BLACK DAWN
"Blood For Satan" CD
NECROPOLIS

Rapid and furious Satanic Metal is what the BLACK DAWN team offers and I find nothing new here myself. I cannot deny though that "Blood For Satan" stands out for its wrath and will definitely appeal to the fans who are not fed up like me yet. Check BLACK DAWN out, folks.

Vanya Marinova.....6.0

SAXORIOR
"Saxot" CD
G.U.C.



This is the 3rd full-length album of the Germans SAXORIOR (the very name is a hybrid of Saxon and warrior) and the first one that I hear from them. Thus, what these guys have created is an intriguing Dark Death Metal release dealing with the time in which Saxonia has been christianized... "Saxot" actually stuns with its dramaticism as the band members have succeeded in creating relevantly authentic atmosphere - the thick guitar riffs are aesthetically laced with mediocrally delightful synth melodies so what you eventually have is a marvelous opus which has nothing to do with today's mediocre releases in praise of heathendom. SAXORIOR's latest CD also includes a skillfully metalized version of Mike Oldfield's "Tubular Bells" and this was an additional great surprise - to me at least!

Vanya Marinova.....7.25

PANCHRYZIA
"In Obscure Depths" CD
LSP

Formed back in November 1998 as ZARATHUSTRA first, the Belgians PANCHRYZIA now attack with devastating angst! What their "In Obscure Depths" is about is a Molotov cocktail of Death and Black Metal in the vein of IMMORTAL, ZYLKON and MAYHEM's "Wolflair Abyss" to some extent. The album tracks are performed with remarkable addressness and this is rather impressive in my opinion keeping in mind the fact that this is the band's debut CD!

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

ATROPOS
"Creature Chthonienne" MCD
Self Released



As I can see in the reviews enclosed, this band have got very positive responses in their mother country France... What ATROPOS offer is a Black Metal release with Heavy and Doom touches plus plenty of acoustic passages and intriguing synth tunes. Still I couldn't get rid of the impression that the guys actually have exposed good ideas but haven't exploited them really good in this sense that "Creature..." sounds a bit inconsistent and chaotic in my opinion. Nevertheless, I appreciate ATROPOS' evident aim at creating diverse music so I wish them good luck in the future.

Vanya Marinova.....6.0

BEFORE GOD
"Under The Blood Banner" CD
Self Released



Well, I haven't heard BEFORE GOD's debut ("Wolves Amongst Sheep") but I couldn't say that the second CD from these Americans really caught my interest as a whole. There are some nice achievements though and I hope that the third album will sound better. Otherwise, they play rapid Black Metal and the achievements I mentioned ut supra express in the relevant insertion of acoustic moments and also the catchy solos. The drumming is far from bad as well.

Vanya Marinova.....6.25

EVILWAR
"Unholy March" CD
SOMBER MUSIC



"Unholy March" is the first longplayer of this outfit from Brazil. Black/Death Metally oriented, the CD stands out for its uncompromising sound achieved by the harsh riffage in which I could distinguish some influence from the 80's thrashing madness. Very promising release on the whole but the vocals didn't appeal to me much. The drummer should be working harder in the future too in order to learn playing in a bit more versatile way...

Vanya Marinova.....6.5

RAUNCHY
"Velvet Noise" CD
MIGHTY MUSIC



Although this Danish band has been devised in 1994 "Velvet Noise" appears to be its first CD and it is damn good! I am not into Nu Metal stuff really but RAUNCHY actually managed to convince me that every rule has its exception. And the one considered in this case is an extraordinary release distinguished for its dynamics and catchiness. "Velvet Noise" is produced by Jacob Hansen (INVOCATOR, ANCIENT, ILLDISPOSED, PALE FOREST, etc) and here is what he says about it: "It is the best album I have ever produced". As for live activity, RAUNCHY have toured Denmark along with the HAUNTED, WITHERING SURFACE, INIQUITY, etc.

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

TAAKE
"Over Gorgin Grater Himmerik" CD
WOUNDED LOVE

Indeed, "for those who miss the good old days and the essence of Norwegian Black Metal" is quite a relevant agitation when it comes to an album like this... "Bjergvin..." (the old name of Norway's former capital Bergen) actually resurrects the spirit of the middle 90's when every 3rd band in Scandinavia was singing of Vikings, icebound forests or trolls and "The Lord Of The Rings" was another reliable inspiration source. Not that I had anything against this though - as a matter of fact, I loved listening to "Stormtroke" or "Dark Medieval Times" back then - but I think that these times are gone yet! So what I am hearing from TAAKE is exhilarating more rather than making me nostalgic or so... Whatever. The band's second release could be distinguished for its great quality (... Bjergvin... has been recorded at Grieghallen), it contains 7 songs written in the old Norse Futhark runes and the main topic is death.

Vanya Marinova.....6.75

PENUMBRA
"The Last Bewitchment" CD
SEASON OF MIST

THERION and NIGHTWISH - these were the bands which the French PENUMBRA reminded me of at the first moment! Whatever, "The Last Bewitchment" is the second CD from this 6 years old formation and I regard it as a Gothic/Doom Metal release that actually revives the spirit of the late medieval... And I do not doubt that PENUMBRA look spectacular on stage - a band featuring 8 members plus 8 choirists and a classical string quartet would hardly remain unnoticed!

Vanya Marinova.....6.5

THE CREST
"Letters From Fire" CD
SEASON OF MIST

Indeed the CD from these Norwegians has some dark shades in its sound but it was not what I expected to hear while reading the info sheet... In short, what THE CREST offer is a gloomy but a little superficial Gothic Rock release in which average guitar riffs meet electronic elements. The vocals are entirely female (Nell Sigland) and remind me of PORTSHEAD's "in moments... Childhood's End", "Never Sleep Again" and "In This Cage" were the tracks I enjoyed most. Otherwise, THE CREST have toured as MORTIS supporters in April 2002.

Vanya Marinova.....6.0

SUP
"Angelus" CD
HOLY RECORDS

Obscure Death / Doom in the vein of PARADISE LOST's "Gothic" is what this CD offers in my opinion... The band itself hails from France and its full name is Spherical Unit Provided. I really enjoyed the thick and emphatically morose atmosphere of "Angelus" but still I think the album could have been better without the melodic vocal parts as their evident feebleness sounds kind of ridiculous against the background of sickening growls and ponderous riffage! "Angelus" also includes some intriguing effects that contribute to the more diverse sound of the CD.

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

SOUTHERN ISOLATION
"Same" MCD
BAPHOMET

I know somehow that a project with such a name could be hardly jolly moods related but still I was very surprised to hear 5 tracks of acoustic guitar music laced with versatile piano melodies and ultimately completed by Opal's velvety soft yet distally deep voice! This unusual woman is responsible for the entire music in the MCD except for the piano parts which were done by Wayne Lohr. I met serious difficulties with expressing what Opal's music made me feel - all I can say is that the "Southern Isolation" MCD carried me miles, miles away where the only thing you could hear is the wind whistling in your ears... Phil Anselmo turned out right, "Opal is a true child of music!"

Contact: <http://www.southernisolation.com>

Vanya Marinova.....7.75

DIVERCIA
"Modus Operandi" CD
HAMMERHEART



"Modus Operandi" is DIVERCIA's first album that I come across but still I find the very name of this band rather familiar... What I am listening to is symphonic Dark Metal with emphatically straightforward track constructions and moderate rhythm. Not a bad release on the whole - although it offers nothing innovative it delights the listener's ears with its unadventurousness. The overall picture of gloom is completed by relevantly somber and clean male vocals.

Vanya Marinova.....6.75

BESTIAL MOCKERY
"Christcrushing Hammerchainsaw" MCD
METAL BLOOD

I have heard the BESTIAL MOCKERY name before but hardly today, on September the 17th, I had the opportunity of giving this Swedish band a listen and what I heard was totally smashing! Thus, "Christcrushing Hammerchainsaw" is an extremely malignant Black Metal release with plenty of oldschool moments in it! As for the band itself, it has been devised in 1995 and its recordings so far include also 2 demo tapes plus two splits respectively with LUST from Canada and SUICIDAL WINDS. A 7" EP is to be released later this year as well as a split with UNHOLY MASSACRE (Brazil). Second that, BESTIAL MOCKERY must have certainly crushed Europe with rancour this summer along with GOSPEL OF THE HORNS and IN AETERNUM. Hail Metal!

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

AGMEN
"Damnation" CD
BREATH OF NIGHT / MERCELESS

Since its forming in July 1997 this Czech band has recorded one demo ("Tartarus '98") and "Damnation" appears its debut full-length album. I must agree that this CD, although offering nothing unheard as yet, outstands with its very good sound quality and the tracks are performed with a great deal of vigour and skill. Uncompromisingly fast Black Metal is what you will hear in case you pick "Damnation" up.

Vanya Marinova.....6.75

ARMAGEDDA
"The Final War Approaching" CD
BREATH OF NIGHT / MERCELESS

Damn! what I read in the info-sheet as a clue of what ARMAGEDDA are like is true: this band (formed in 2000) actually plays "grim genocidal Black Metal in the line DARKTHRONE tradition!" Heh, although I found the DARKTHRONE juxtaposition ridiculous ARMAGEDDA's debut CD definitely reminded me of the classic "Transylvanian Hunger". In a few words, I liked "The Final War Approaching" but I cannot help reminding these guys from Sweden that they are them and DARKTHRONE are DARKTHRONE. On the other hand, this is ARMAGEDDA's debut CD so I wish them good luck in the future!

Vanya Marinova.....7.25

SECRETS OF THE MOON
"Stronhold Of The Inviolables" CD
CICATRIX / RED STREAM

Once founded by former MARYTRIUM members, SECRETS OF THE MOON now come up with their first album "Stronhold...". Thus, what this CD impressed me with at first was the extremely primitive sound but I think that it's ok for I have the feeling that if the album had better quality, this would have hardly led to such a stunning result namely that grim and weird atmosphere which "Stronhold..." is filled with! Musically the release is Black Metally oriented - according to what I read in the info-sheet, SOTM are supposed to be influenced from CELTIC FROST and DARKTHRONE but I could barely feel it. In brief, what I heard from this German band appealed to me very much - the guys have created a sonic paragon of Misanthropy and Desolation!

Vanya Marinova.....7.25

WILL'O'WISP
"Unseen" CD
VOW DREAMS



This band hails from Italy and its album contains intriguing ideas concerning the track constructions... Stylistic "Unseen" is in my opinion a release in which various genres interact - one could feel shades of Doom, Gothic and Heavy Metal even. The atmosphere is sensibly melancholic. I have the feeling that this is WILL'O'WISP's first ever release for the tracks, although very catchy, sound kind of unfinished in moments. However, removing this is not impossible so I welcome the band with joy as it obviously has some potential!

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

DOMINIUM
"Psycho Path Fiver" CD
METAL MIND



This is one of the most versatile releases that I have come across lately! The 3rd CD of the Polish DOMINIUM (known as UNKNOWN DIMENSIONS previously) gripped my attention for the sake of the musicians' virtuosity and openness expressed in experimenting with genres varying from Death, Doom and Progressive Metal to Jazz! Every single track opens gates to another musical dimension and you ultimately feel your head starts reeling from so much diversity! What enriches the very CD in additional is the mysteriously dark moods that stream from all the songs. A real treasure for the CD collections of all listeners who yearn for hearing something really original!

Vanya Marinova.....8.75

UPHILL BATTLE
"Same" CD
RELAPSE



With its first longplayer this newest member of the Relapse family offers a killer mixture of Hard Core, Death and (slightly) Grind elements. All the tracks shine with their vitality and adroit performance and the latter is quite explainable since the UPHILL BATTLE (ex-Crawlspace) members have been involved in other outfits before that namely Sonnenambulist, Destroy Babylon and Eat Shit And Die.

Vanya Marinova.....7.25

OBTEST
"Juka Senits Devils" CD
LEDO TAKAS



Lithuania's OBTEST (formed in 1992) appears to be another Black Metal band dealing with heathendom related topics but still I liked its full-length "Juka..." for the sake of the energy and skill which the tracks included are performed with. On the top of it, the vocals strongly remind me of KOROZIA METALLA's (a cult Russian Thrash band from the 80's) Some choral male singing contributes additionally to the achievement of OBTEST's goal of creating an opus in praise of times forgotten. Good job as a whole!

Vanya Marinova.....7.0

ASGAARD
"XIII Vultum Lunae" CD
METAL MIND



It seems that the Metal Mind label has very special bands in stock! Save with the marvelous DOMINIUM I am now given the chance of acquainting you with another delightful Polish band namely ASGAARD! The very band exists since 1994 and "XIII Vultum Lunae" is the fourth full-length album in its discography. What it offers is a stunning blend of Doom and Black Metal. The overall picture is additionally enriched by clean male vocals and female singing and the first makes me remember the Norwegian ARCTURUS in their earlier period. Nothing copycatish though.

Vanya Marinova.....7.5

SOMBER SERENITY
"Singular" CD
MEDUSA Productions



This is the third band from the German label Medusa Productions which I come across. Thus, SOMBER SERENITY hail from Southern Germany and "Singular" is their debut CD. What I heard was gloomy but

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standard Death/Doom Metal. At least the guys of SOMBER SERENITY have succeeded in creating an emphatically melancholic atmosphere so the music suits the very name of the band fine. In terms of live performances, SOMBER SERENITY have done more than 25 gigs so far with colleagues like MY DYING BRIDE, THE GATHERING, NIGHT IN GALES, VIOLATION, etc.

Vanya Marinaova.....6,0

THY PAIN

"More Than Suffering" MCD
CLENCHED FISTS Records

Definitely by listening to the *"More Than Suffering"* MCD one could notice that all the band members have a solid musical experience acquired by their previous participations in SHREDDED CORPSE and INNER WAR. The 7 tracks are performed with skill and a great deal of energy but seem to sound kind of predictable at the same time. Otherwise, the music that THY PAIN play is a Hard Core/Death Metal combo with a Progressive shade. Soundwise the album is untouchable and the layout is far from bad too!

Vanya Marinaova.....6,75

LIGHT IS THE LANGUAGE

"The Void Falls Silent" CD
GLADIATOR

Indeed this Hard Core/Noise debut from LIGHT IS THE LANGUAGE is not bereft of energy but still I couldn't find anything to stick to in order to consider the very album as intriguing. To me, *"The Void Falls Silent"* is just another piece of misery driven wrath dragged up from a big city's outskirts. Check the album out though, in case you're interested...

Vanya Marinaova.....5,0

BELPHEGOR

"Infernal Live Orgasm" CD

PHALLELUJAH

Honestly speaking I am not that familiar with BELPHEGOR's releases and I remember I was sent their last album for a review as well last year and the album did not appeal to me at all but this what I am listening to right now actually makes my blood boil. Ultrafast Death/Black Metal with brainiacous snobs and sickening growls - this all calling associations of burning leathers and sodomized cherubs... Second that, the sound quality is just great and this very fact increases the pleasure of listening to the *"Infernal Live Orgasm" CD*.

Vanya Marinaova.....7,5

ANESTESIA

"Satisfied" CD
CEPHALIC Records

This quartet from the Czech Republic has been formed somewhere in 1995 from the ashes of NECROSIS and SATANACHRIST. *"Satisfied"* appears to be ANESTESIA's debut and I regard it as a 100 % Hard Core release. The album tracks shine with both versatility and vividness so I recommend the CD to every self-respecting Hard Core freak.

Vanya Marinaova.....7,25

THEE MALDOROR COLLECTIVE

"New Era Viral Order" CD
CODE 666

With its very name this Italian band (born in 1991) caught my attention but what I am listening to is not less intriguing! Eventually *"New Era Viral Order"* turned out the arena on which typically Black Metal riffs and maddened shrieks meet weird Ambient / Industrial music. Cold and morose, the album tracks pass one by one like painstakers from the brush of a misanthropic artist to install in your mind the completed vision of piles of machinery remnants lit by the feeble rays of a sun drowning in fog of sable... A prelude to Apocalypse highly recommendable to all fans of PLASMA POOL, ABYRVAL, MZ 412 or RAISIN!

Vanya Marinaova.....8,25

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"3rd Anniversary Label Sampler" Compilation CD
SOLARISK

Definitely the CD from this Finnish label will help many people realize that Finland must not be connected with IMPALED NAZARENE, NIGHTWISH or CHILDREN OF BODOM only. Oh, and I almost forgot about HIM, ha-ha-ha! Anyway, what Solarisk offers is a very interesting coexistence of jolly Punk / Core energies and Dark Pop / Rock / Gothic moods... The bands that appealed to me most were THE COFFINSHAKERS (Transylvanian Horror Country Punk definitely), THE BLACK LEAGUE and PLAN E (featuring I. Nazarene's former drummer and bassist). The rest are as follows: TERVEET KADET, DRILLER KILLER, CLUMB TO ZALEM, BRUTAL TRUTH (do they actually need any introduction?) and VALSE TRISTE. Yet another interesting detail is that the compilation includes also a cover of I. Nazarene's *"Ghettoblaster"* by DRILLER KILLER and some of DRILLER KILLER's *"I Couldn't Care Less"* by IMPALED NAZARENE. Listening to the CD was a great experience!

Vanya Marinaova.....7,5

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Maulatta" Compilation CD ... Vol 1
SPEKEFARM

Yet another Finnish label shows up with its sampler. Unlike Solarisk the Spekefarm crew leads us to the darkest corners of the Finnish scene by giving us around 76 min of music including tracks by bands like MOONSORROW, AJATTARA, THE SCARR, SILENTMIND, SHAPE OF DESPAIR, SHADOW, FINNTROLL, ENTWINE, KALMAH, THYRANE, RAM-ZET from Norway (the only foreigners in this compilation), THE DEAD BEGINNERS and RAPTURE. A perfect guide for all those who show interest in music's darker aspects of Suomi, Finland!

Vanya Marinaova.....7,5

VARIOUS ARTISTS

"Castle Party 2002" Compilation CD
METAL MIND

Here is another delightful surprise from Poland's Metal Mind Productions - a compilation CD reflecting this year's Castle Party Festival! The event itself dates since 1994 and has been gathering every year for 2 days: Gothic/Dark Wave/Metal bands and fans from all over Europe amidst the ruins of Bolkow Castle... Some of the bands included this time are Project Pitchfork, Das Ich, Clan Of Xymox, Variete, Christ Agony (!?), New Model Army, etc. While envy I feel for all those who have witnessed the fes-

tival and have been a part of the majestically dark atmosphere which this CD is filled with!

Vanya Marinaova.....7,75

OPIUM JUKEBOX

"Never Mind The Bhangra" CD
DREAM CATCHER

Now THAT I didn't expect some of the SEX PISTOLS classics transfigured to... ritualistic / psychedelic hymns! No joke, this is OPIUM JUKEBOX' homage to the Punk idols and their 25th anniversary and I think that you must be a really diehard SP fan in order to recognize the songs! On the top of it, they are all faced with unearthly delightful cithara tunes and in fact that's what makes *"Never Mind The Bhangra"* sound so psychedelic yet kind of nostalgic... One of the most beautiful tribute albums that I have heard ever! By the way, I have a surprise for the fans of MINISTRY, KILLING JOKE, PUBLIC IMAGE LTD and THE DAMAGE MANUAL as well - one of the OPIUM JUKEBOX members is in fact... Martin Atkins.

Vanya Marinaova.....8,5

DEMIGOD

"Shadow Mechanics" CD
SPIKEFARM

This is the second album of this otherwise 12 years old band from Loimaa, Finland. Death Metal stirred by cult acts like POSSESSED, INFERNAL MAJESTY or CARPACCIS will blow your speakers off in case you purchase this CD. I have never been a diehard Death Metal fan (Thrash bands used to be my passion) but *"Shadow Mechanics"* definitely delighted my ears with its plain track constructions and ponderous riffage. Some of the songs have been written in the early 90's and this contributes enormously to the oldschool atmosphere streaming from the album all the time. Only DEATH is real!

Vanya Marinaova.....7,0

FROZEN SHADOWS

"Dans les Bras des Immortels" CD
SEPULCHRAL

Formed in 1995, this Canadian outfit now offers us its full-length debut. Well, it features 7 cold and severe Black Metal tracks in the vein of the middle 90's - a period that will be always connected with such praised albums as *"In the Nightshade Eclipse"*, *"Sonia Morla Slott"* or *"Dark Medieval Times"*. Aberratively rapid but still spectrally magnificent (those entrancing synth melodies), *"Dans les Bras des Immortels"* is a must-have for all those who feel nostalgic for the last decade's atmosphere obscure!

Vanya Marinaova.....7,25

DECAYED

"Ten Years of Steel" CD
HIBERICA

Portugal's oldschool pest DECAYED with a live album for their 10th anniversary. I am SMASHED! I remember this band since 1994 when it showed up with *"Conjuration Of The Southern Circle"* - a killer Black/Death release with tons of oldschool elements in it! I used to have the pleasure of corresponding with DECAYED's guitarist Jose A. and I can assure you that he at least is a diehard VENOM/BATHORY/CELTIC FROST fan! Back to *"Ten Years of Steel"* though... This live album features some of the hardest tracks written in a decade of blasphemous outrage plus a cover medley namely *"Into The Crypts Of Rays/Call From The Grave/Witching Hour"* and 4 extra studio tracks which are as follows: *"Holocaust"*, *"Supreme Evil"*, *"Necrocrim"* and *"Necromancy"*. I dream of seeing DECAYED as supporters of VENOM, BATHORY or CELTIC FROST someday - these dudes fuckin' deserve it!

Vanya Marinaova.....7,75

CORPUS CHRISTI

"The Fire God" CD
HIBERICA

Here is another cool band from the Portuguese Iberica. Unlike their cult labelmates DECAYED, CORPUS CHRISTI have oriented to more current tendencies in Black Metal but still they sound pretty uncompromising and will certainly appeal to fans who loathe patheticism in this otherwise most severe and defiant Metal genre in my opinion! What are you going to hear in case you purchase this CD is 8 ultrafast and relentlessly grim tracks decorated with majestically cold piano melodies plus a smashing cover of *"Buried By Time And Dust"*. Special album guest - Mayhem's Necrotoucher... Seducing, eh?

Vanya Marinaova.....7,5

KHOLD

"Phantom" CD
MOONFOG

Now when I am listening to the band's second release (again) I have recalled an intriguing statement that was posted in DARKTHRONE's Necropit forum this summer namely a guy's viewing of *"Phantom"* as a release featuring some... Stoner Rock shades. Although I am still not apt of accepting his point I agree at least that the second CD from the KHOLD team appears to sound sensibly different from *"Mastership Of Pain"* - slower, darker and more ponderous, *"Phantom"* doesn't seem to call nostalgic moods for the middle 90's and I find this great as to me this means that the Norwegians started exploring new paths. Yet another thing that I noticed was the fact that the Norse track titles are this time translated into English - very kind of KHOLD indeed. Many thanks to O43's Angela for bestowing me the *"Phantom"* promo CD!

Vanya Marinaova.....7,5

TERROR ORGAN

"Buzzbomb" CD
RED STREAM

I haven't come across TERROR ORGAN and I even don't know if this American formation has released other CDs before that... *"Buzzbomb"* turned out a weird Ambient / Industrial release that strongly reminded me of bands like DARKNESS ENSHROUDS or EQUIAMANTHORN (USA). Although I am into stuff like that in general I found TERROR ORGAN a bit monotonous. An extremely morose release though!

Vanya Marinaova.....6,5

ARCTURUS

"The Sham Mirrors" CD
VME

I was not an ARCTURUS fan until I heard *"La Masquerade Infernale"* and I remember I was literally enthralled by the album's headstriking uniqueness... As for *"The Sham Mirrors"*, the first thing I would like to state is that this release finally belongs to my (small) group of CDs that appealed to me from the VERY FIRST listening and almost do not leave my player! With *"The Sham Mirrors"* Trickster G and Co once again reveal to us a new face of music itself - a face that does not (and will hardly ever) have a name but its beauty universal will keep on making you burst into tears... Time and again I was getting on this roundabout of melodies so diversely dark and deep still without finding proper words for describing what I heard so all I can add is: in case you still didn't check out *"The Sham Mirrors"* what the heck are you waiting for? This is the album of the year!

Vanya Marinaova.....10

THE REV KRIS HADES

"The Wind Of Orion" CD
DECIUS

The first ever solo album of SADISTIK EXEQUITION's / NAZUL's Rev Kris Hades offers like 45 min. of obscure noises bringing visions of ritualized madness, ghastliness, desolation. Insane riff tunes flash here and there as though to remind the listener that a metalhead stands behind this all... The atmosphere in *"The Winds Of Orion"* entrains totally and I believe that all connoisseurs of dismal Ambient stuff will enjoy *The Rev Kris Hades*.

Vanya Marinaova.....8,5

RUNES ORDER

"The Art Of Scare And Sorrow" CD
BEYOND Productions

I bet that many of you have already got a clue of what this CD might be like by watching the name of the label via which it is released... Yes, RUNES ORDER is the dark Electro/Ambient project of Claudio Donato who is also a member of HOLDEN RUNE, ATOM INCUBATOR and TUNGUSKA. With his seventh CD *"The Art Of Scare And Sorrow"* this man offers unforgettable moments of mesmerizing weirdness and majestic (somehow) archaic sorrow... Visions of vast and impenetrable woods hiding their dark secrets is what this album brought to me and thus (inescapably) reminded me of *"The Blair Witch Project"* and *"Twin Peaks"*. A fantastic release like all the CDs from Italy's Beyond Productions which I have come across as yet!

Vanya Marinaova.....9,0

SKEPTICISM

"The Process Of Farnakon" MCD
RED STREAM

This MCD is the first thing that I hear from Finland's Doomsters SKEPTICISM and I couldn't say that I am really fascinated as I am just not a Doom Metal fan that much... I do not deny though that *The Process Of Farnakon* sounds like a gigantic dirge - funnily slow and obscure the MCD will surely appeal to the night listeners!

Vanya Marinaova.....6,5

NOPLACETOHIDE

"Vergangenheit" CD

Wow, this time I am being sent an oldish release for reviewing... NPLH, hail from Norway, *"Vergangenheit"* is their debut CD and it dates since... 1995. Otherwise, the band offers 100 % Hard Core with rather obscure atmosphere (most probably) achieved by the dismal piano and saxophone tunes here and there... The tracks are performed with a great deal of energy, and skill and actually make your blood boil! In short, *"Vergangenheit"* appealed hell of a lot to me, the non-HC fan, let alone to those who are into bands referred to this very general Great job, can't wait for hearing some more from you guys! Official NPLH web site - <http://www.noplacetohide.org>

Vanya Marinaova.....8,5

DEVILIUM

"Pagan At War" CD
CRIMINAL Records

DEVILIUM are from France, this is their debut album and they have released 3 demos before that. What I found very strange was the definition of their music... *"barbaric Death Metal"*. DEVILIUM's music is Death Metal with an oldschool touch and poetic solo parts. Lyrics, however, deal with pagan related topics. Interesting combination indeed! Soundwise the album is not that good though so I would advise the guys to look for a better studio next time.

Diliana Iankova.....5,5

GARWALL

"Abyssus Abyssum Invocat" MCD
ADIPOCERE

After 2 demos GARWALL show up with this mini CD. This band wasn't familiar to me so I was very interested in hearing it. So GARWALL play symphonic Black Metal and I was very impressed by the great production of the MCD itself. Musically this band is kind of monotonous and offers nothing new but is performed with skill anyway. In case you are into such bands, get this mini album and you'll hear melodies that keep both tenderness and cruelty...

Diliana Iankova.....6,5

UNLORD

"Lord Of Beneath" CD
DISPLEASED

This is the 3rd album from UNLORD - a band existing for 13 years already. Their music is ultrastat Black Metal in a Norwegian vein and impresses a lot as a whole! Still, the album did not leave me stunned as it sounded kind of chaotic at the same time. The track I liked most was the 5th one... *"Angel Of Fire"*, which outstands with the keyboard parts inserted and sounds darker and more mystic. The layout appealed to me a lot too. Otherwise, UNLORD's previous releases sound better in my opinion.

Diliana Iankova.....7,0

CARPE TENEBRUM

"Dreaded Chaotic Reign" CD
HAMMERHEART

Every BM fan knows who Astennu is as well as the incredible DIMMU BORGIR and THE COVENANT among which he used to be a part of. So CARPE TENEBRUM is his own project and now the band comes up with

a third CD. And the difference between it and *"Mirrored Hate Painting"* is enormous - the latter sounds far more bombastic and defiant. *"Dreaded Chaotic Reign"* sounds more down to earth and at the same time the listener will enjoy Astennu's riffing hell of a lot! By the way, he plays all the instruments this time plus all the vocal parts are done by him as well. No doubt, the distance between fast Black Metal and Death Metal is pretty long... Anyway, check out CARPE TENEBRUM's latest release as it's really innovative and professional!

Diliana Iankova.....7,75

THYRIFING

"Vansinesvisor" CD
HAMMERHEART

The same line-up and the same impressive and defiant music! Still this album from THYRIFING sounds different - harder but there is plenty of synth tunes in it at the same time. A highly emotive release - you will certainly feel its magnetism by the trembling of your soul's most distant strings! Words couldn't work when it comes to reviewing such a brilliant album! Exclusively majestic and haunting atmosphere! Don't omit *"Vansinesvisor"*!

Diliana Iankova.....9,5

NECRONOMICON

"Pharaoh Of Gods" CD
UNIQUE LEADER

This band is rather strange and its music caused controversial feelings in me... NECRONOMICON play fast and technical Death Metal but one could hear something chaotic in the songs at the same time. Also I could distinguish some riffs intrinsic to MORBID ANGEL's manner of playing! Literally the band deals with Egyptian mythology and the like. But in the info-sheet I couldn't see any clue of where the guys are from (I have the feeling that they are Canadians...) Good album though.

Diliana Iankova.....6,5

OPERA IX

"Malevenum" CD
AVANTGARDE

This band needs no introduction as it is one of Italy's most popular ones. As I can see, there are some changes in the line-up: Taranis on drums, the frontman Madras (who sounds not worse than Cadaveria!), Ossian (guitar), Vlad (bass) and Lunaris on keys. Well, I don't know if it's from so much fresh blood here but *"Malevenum"* is an album that marks Opera IX's age definitely and thus makes them a real jewel in the crown of King Metal! The band's 4th long-player is faster, with plenty of synth parts that contribute to the mystic atmosphere... And you must hear the way Madras' vocals and the music itself interact to become one so majestically! Just a masterpiece!

Diliana Iankova.....9,5

PSICORRAGIA

"La Pasion De La Mortal" CD
AMERICAN LINE

PSICORRAGIA come from Peru and this album is their first one. They play tolerable Death / Doom Metal and use traditional Latino instruments like congas, changa and bongos. There are also violins with the DYING BRIDE's but here this instrument sounds irritatingly huge. The production of the CD isn't good enough, it lacks power. PSICORRAGIA are good musicians but what they need is a better studio (in USA or Europe) where they can get the sound they need. If you want to contact them, here is their email address: psicorrage@hotmail.com

Tsvetan Rachev.....5,0

NEHEMAH

"Light Of A Dead Star" CD
ADIPOCERE

No doubt, the world's BM scene has tons of bands like this which are exclusively outstanding for their bad sound quality that, beautifies! rapid and monotonous songs! The treble tunes that come from my speakers seem to pierce my eardrums like a thousand needles! It was only the vocals that appealed to me from the entire cacophony but this makes no sense at all...

Diliana Iankova.....5,0

THORNPAWN

"Wrath Of War" CD
OSMOSE

THORNPAWN is the consecutive band that proves the fact US Black Metal = total boredom! The only unusual thing here is that this is the first Black Metal band I can think of where the drummer is also a vocalist. THORNPAWN's songs sound like one composition separated with pauses here and there. Their attempt to sound like MARDUK or even MAYHEM is obvious but these Americans are far away from the black godz. *"Wrath Of War"* is just another primitive Black Metal recording with nothing out of the ordinary. There are much more interesting bands so don't waste your time with this. Shitty recording isn't equal to cult recording, right?!

Tsvetan Rachev.....3,0

DEATH DIES

"The Sound Of Demons" CD
BTOD

DEATH DIES from Italy exist since 1995 and this is their first album. What they have created is incredibly melodic and fast Black Metal with dulcet female voices adroit guitar solos. Some moments are rather repetitious and this gets me bored a little but still there are many good achievements at the same time. However, DEATH DIES still have much to learn so let's see what they will create in the future...

Diliana Iankova.....6,0

MASTODON

"Remission" CD
RELAPSE

"Remission" is the second offering of MASTODON after their debut *"Lifesblood"*. This band is formed by musicians from TODAY IS THE DAY and SOCIAL INFESTATION. What you'll hear is a mix of Industrial and Metal / Core - sometimes they sound like GODFLESH, sometimes like SEPULTURA (the *"Roots"* era). MASTODON play psychotic music for Industrial / Metal maniacs - the average Metal fan probably won't accept this. This band uses some acoustic guitars which add melancholic touch to the overall heavy sound. *"Remission"* is only for true freaks - try it if you dare.

Tsvetan Rachev.....6,5

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MISERY INDEX
Over Thrash CD
FADELESS
 Jason Netherhorn (DYING FETUS) on vocals and bass, Mike Harrison (PESSIMIST, SADISTIC TORMENT) on guitars and vocals, Sparky Voyles (DYING FETUS, M.O.D., and FEAR OF GOD) on guitars/bass and Kevin Taley (DYING FETUS, M.O.D., and SUFFOCATION) on drums - what do you think about MISERY INDEX line-up, eh? I bet you doubt not that a plaid of such musicians would create anything but a worthless CD and you are right, folks! *Over Thrash* offers killer Death / Grind with stunning riffs spreading brutally and uncompromisingness and the drumming is just breathtaking! Bye or die!
 Dilara Iankova.....9,25

VEHEMENCE
God Was Created CD
METAL BLADE
 I come across VEHEMENCE for a first time and my impressions are kind of controversial as the band's music features both very good moments and such that sound trivial and somehow slip through my ears... I liked the vocals a lot: deep and sensitive, just incredible! As a whole, VEHEMENCE mix Death with Dark / Black Metal plus something intrinsic to no one but the band itself. One could hear delightful female voices here as well as clear guitar passages and some piano tones. The tempo is average and the vocalist contributes to the atmosphere of *God Was Created* enormously with his velvety soft and deep timbre! What didn't appeal to me was the fact that the album is bereft of catchiness on the whole and commercial melodies is far from this what I mean but something that will keep on echoing in your ears long after the CD has finished... Still VEHEMENCE sound very professional and promising!
 Dilara Iankova.....7,5

ETERNAL GRAY
Kindness CD
RAVEN MUSIC
 After SALEM and ORPHANED LAND this is the third high-quality Metal band coming from Israel. ETERNAL GRAY play technical Death Metal with elements from Black and Thrash. The album is recorded at The Abyss - Tommy Tagtgren is the producer so there's no need to say anything concerning the production. In addition to that, two living Underground legends are guest musicians in *Kindness* - the evil leader of HYPOCRISY Peter Tagtgren and the mighty Schmier from the one and only DESTRUCTION! ETERNAL GRAY's sound is influenced to some extent from HYPOCRISY and some passages remind me of the technical Thrash guys CORNER but the band have put their personal touch in the music. The vocals are multi-layered and sometimes two or three different voices sound together. ETERNAL GRAY don't use folk elements so often as most of the bands from Israel do. In conclusion I must say that *Kindness* is an excellent album for fans of all Metal genres. Their future doesn't look *eternal* gray...
 Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

BENIGHTED
Psychose CD
ADPOCERE
 There are albums which I just cannot describe merely because they have nothing to do with my preferences and my ear receptors meet serious difficulties with conveying to my brain what I might have heard... I just cannot decide if I eventually liked BENIGHTED or not! What *Psychose* offers is fast, chaotic and manic Death Metal, that's all I have to say... Every plant has its soil though so try this CD out - maybe you'll enjoy it.
 Dilara Iankova.....5,0

MANGLED
Most Painful Ways CD
HAMMERHEART
 I've always found interesting MANGLED's definition of their style - Pure Grave Rock! I can't find any rock elements in their second album *Most Painful Ways*, what I'm hearing is ordinary Death Metal that doesn't stay in your mind after several listenings even. I remember their debut *"Ancient Times"*, a concept album dedicated to the Roman civilization, it was more intriguing and better performed than this one. I don't have the vinyl version of *Most Painful Ways* where MANGLED have included their version of *"A Skull Full Of Maggots"* of you-know-who. But one cover version won't save this CD - it's just an average work.
 Tsvetan Rachev.....5,0

SATIRIAL
Heidenlarm CD
BEYOND... Productions
 As if I liked the previous *"The Queen Of The Elves"* more... *Heidenlarm* contains 11 tracks the five of which are authentic Russian folk songs and ballads and feature solely female vocals (one of the songs is named as *"Satirical Unkaidon Ballad - XXI century"*). As a whole the band plays melodic, folk Black Metal with female singing and traditional Russian instruments such as flute for example. SATIRIAL sound strange, dreamy, beautiful and exotic. A very catchy release with a good production.
 Dilara Iankova.....7,0

DESDEMONIA
Paralyzed CD
Self Released
 The first interesting thing about DESDEMONTIA is that they come from Luxembourg. I don't know any other band from that country. Another thing that I can't understand is why a band that plays excellent Death Metal haven't found a proper label. *Paralyzed* is the second CD for DESDEMONTIA and it presents Death Metal with catchy riffs and brutal vocals. The good thing here is that DESDEMONTIA don't fall in the trap of technical playing by doing 15-20 changes per song. Their songs are easy to follow but this doesn't mean that they are primitive. DESDEMONTIA have shared the stage with such legends as MAYHEM, DYING FETUS, DIE KRUPPS... so they're experienced enough. I hope they'll find a serious label soon because their music deserves it!
 Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

KEKAL
The Painful Experience CD
CLENCHEDFIST RECORDS
 This is the first band I hear that's trying to play Black Metal with Heavy Metal vocals. Hear the first song *"The Monsters Within"* - Black Metal in the vein of DIMMU BORGIR

with a high-pitched voice. Personally I find those vocals irritating but at least the idea deserves attention. KEKAL's music isn't bad at all; they mix influences from IRON MAIDEN, JUDAS PRIEST, etc. with symphonic Black Metal. Jeff (guitar/vocals), Azhar (bass/vocals) and Leo (guitar/vocals) are from Indonesia and *The Painful Experience* is their third album. Save the above mentioned Heavy Metal screaming, there are also clean and Black Metal vocals. This is a non-standard release and probably will appeal to open-minded people only. If you look for something like that - check out this one!
 Tsvetan Rachev.....6,5

KALMAH
They Will Return CD
SPIKEFARM
 Although it is not a problem to describe KALMAH's music I would advise you to hear this album for yourselves in order to realize what it is all about. Still I will recommend this band to all fans of CATAMENIA and the Finnish Black Metal bands as a whole. After *"Swampford"* (2000), *They Will Return* appears to be KALMAH's second album and the band's new bassist is Timo Lehtinen of CATAMENIA. The release itself was recorded in Tico-Tico Studios and now here is the final result: vehemently galloping melodies as massive and majestic as a waterfall, *They Will Return* freezes you in rapture and you're incapable of making a move until the 9 tracks (including a cover of MEGADETH's *"Skin O' My Teeth"*) fade away... Despite the plenty of synth parts (that sound like organ in moments) there is a sensible Death Metal influence here. Besides, some of the tracks feature daring solos! The song that I liked most was *They Will Return* - starting with rhythmic riffs it continues with the same solos I mentioned above to leave you totally exhausted emotionally! Every song here has its own sound and uniqueness...
 Dilara Iankova.....9,75

ANTEAUS
De Principi Evangelikum CD
OSMOSE
 The vocalist of this band strongly reminds me of the screaming of IMMORTAL's Abbat... Musically ANTEAUS sounds very pretty fast but monotonous at the same time. Riffing is incredibly spiteful and outrageous with some oldschool touch. The production of *De Principi...* is great though so this album would most probably appeal to all fans of Norwegian Black Metal.
 Dilara Iankova.....6,0

CATTLE DECAPITATION
To Serve Man CD
METAL BLADE
 CARCASS will always remain in music's history as one of the Grind Core pioneers. Now 6 years after their demise, the Underground is full of bands worshipping the British masters: EXHUMED, IMPALED, DISGORGED... CATTLE DECAPITATION are the one of the bands playing fast and extreme Grind but without using the well-known gory lyrics. Their lyrics are closer to NAPALM DEATH's (dealing with the problems of the modern society). As for CATTLE DECAPITATION's music, this is Grind with heavy guitars, blasting swaths and variety of voices - the fronter Travis Ryan uses vox effects and the result is a choir of deranged animals! The cover artwork is done by Wes Benscoter (you should know him at least from the MORTICIAN art covers) and it is really impressive, in the old gory traditions. This is a Grind Core album above the average - if you're a Grind fan, don't miss this CD.
 Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

RAVENTHRONE
Endless Conflict Theorem CD
AVANTGARDE
 RAVENTHRONE's second release is out five years after the debut *"Malice In Wonderland"* (1997). Save the band's founder Ray Wells RAVENTHRONE also feature Martin Schirenc (PUNGENT STENCH). Well, *Endless Conflict Theorem* both sounds like and differs from the previous CD. Plenty of almost chaotic synths, solely clean male vocals and rhythmic melodies that are hard to define stylistically. This is just Metal.
 Dilara Iankova.....6,0

BLOODSHED
Inhabitants Of Dis CD
CODE 666
 Once more this Swedish band offers us its freshly melodies which are basically Death / Black Metal oriented plus other influences stylistically and this all has turned to BLOODSHED's trademark in terms of sound... *Inhabitants Of Dis* was recorded at Sunlight Studio and it is noticeable for its great production. An exclusively unique and vehement release!
 Dilara Iankova.....8,5

PRIMORDIAL
Storm Before Calm CD
HAMMERHEART
 PRIMORDIAL is one of the few bands with really unique sound and atmosphere! As if the listener becomes a part of the album itself - this Irish band creates MUSIC in the darkest and most real sense of the word. Whatever I may write about *Storm Before Calm* it will be hardly a sufficient description of my awe so you'd better enter PRIMORDIAL's world without hesitation and submerge into the sea of ancient Celtic mysteries!
 Dilara Iankova.....8,75

WIND OF THE BLACK MOUNTAINS
Black Sun Shall Rise CD
MORIBUND
 Finally the second album of this US one-man band WOTBM is out. I'm talking about primitive Black / Thrash / Death Metal, good enough to carry the mark *"old-school"*. Thor (not the Norwegian one) formed the band in 1992 and since then he is the only man playing there. His influences include bands from the ancient Thrash / Black Metal school like VENOM, HELLHAMMER, BATHORY and his admiration towards the German Thrash Scene has resulted in the last song of this album which is a cover version of

SODOM's *"Blasphemur"*. There's a German speech in the intro but I can't get a word. WOTBM is a cult band for the US scene and if you're not Black / Thrash you won't be disappointed by this CD.
 Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

WARMEN
Beyond Abilities CD
SPINEFARM
 The keyboardist Janne Warman became known to the world with his participation in the Finnish Heavy / Black Metal act CHILDREN OF BODOM. But obviously Janne's ambitions are higher and now he presents his second solo-album *"Beyond Abilities"*. Save Janne (keyboards of course) the project WARMAN includes also Lauri Pora (bass) and Mirka Rantanen (drums) from the Progressive Metalers TUNNELVISION, Sami Vironen (guitar) of MANNERHEIM and Janne's brother Antti Warman (guitar) of CRAYDawn. Let's see the guest appearances: we have Timo Kotipelto from STRATOVARIUS in two songs, Pasi Nykanen from THRONE OF CHAOS in one song and the furious lady Kimberly Goss in two songs, one of them being a brilliant cover version of HEART's classic *"Alone"*. I have always had bad feelings towards the solo projects of famous musicians because most of the time you hear just technical leads and nothing more. Fortunately, the case with *"Beyond Abilities"* is not the same - the instrumentals are short and the songs are so made that would fit the vocal style of every singer. You can hear a great mix of Hard Rock / Heavy / Power Metal, classic music and even some dark Alternative, all that performed by perfect musicians. This CD is a pleasure for the ears - don't hesitate, go and buy it. It's just great!
 Tsvetan Rachev.....9,0

AJATTARA
Isse CD
SPIKEFARM
 Save IMPALED NAZARENE and FINNTROLL this is one of the few really interesting bands from the Finnish Black Metal scene. AJATTARA strike with mid tempo Black Metal where you'll find something from FALKENBACH's epic feeling and the psycho mood of MORGUL. AJATTARA are a trio including the main man Rujoja (vocals, guitar, keyboard), Malakias (drums) and Atoni (bass). *"Isse"* is a release which captures the oldschool feeling of DARKTHRONE and the newschool Black Metal methods. AJATTARA use their own language and I think this adds more mystical touch to their music. This is a high quality Black Metal (something we don't hear so often lately, right?) and I recommend it to all true Black Metal fans.
 Tsvetan Rachev.....8,0

DAEMONLORD
The Sign... CD
MEDUSA Productions
 DAEMONLORD come from Spain and *The Sign...* is their debut effort with extremely long title. Concerning music this is extreme Black Metal with death-like vocals. DAEMONLORD are the founder of the band. Kepa on all instruments and Sixto (MOONSHINE) on vocals. The drums are programmed and don't sound natural. I think that another vocalist with higher voice will suit to DAEMONLORD's music more. The riffs are 100% Black Metal - I suppose you've heard the same in MARDUK, DARK FUNERAL... This release doesn't stand out for anything special, I got bored after the first three songs. If you're a dihard Black Metal fan hear this CD, the other won't find anything interesting here.
 Tsvetan Rachev.....5,5

UYFCH SORMEER
Antem To The Glory Of The Great Octagon CD
ANCESTRAL CRAFT Productions
 Do you like fantasy books? Do you like epic Black Metal? If the answer to these questions is yes then you must hear the first album of the French UYFCH SORMEER. Gaining inspiration from Michael Moorcock's cycle for the great warrior Eric, this band lay down skillfully played Black Metal in the vein of BAL-SAGOTH and DIMMU BORGIR. Actually you can easily mistake these Frenchmen for the mighty BAL-SAGOTH because of the great resemblance in their sound. Cosmic keyboards, aggressive drumming, Black Metal riffs and many different screams / growls - that's the anthem to the glory of the great octagon. This is complex music which requires careful listening. UYFCH SORMEER will appeal to all those who like epic and aggressive tunes.
 Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

SCARVE
Luminiferous CD
LISTENABLE
 In my opinion some of the most interesting and non-standard acts in the European Underground scene come from France. Just think about MASSACRA or CARNIVAL IN GOAL... The latest jewel from the French Republic is called SCARVE and strike with smashing Industrial Metal *"Luminiferous"* is a mix of Swedish Death Metal, FEAR FACTORY and MESHUGGAH. The vocal duelling between Pierrick Valence (screams) and Guillaume Bideau (melodic singing) makes great impression and fits perfectly the aggressiveness of SCARVE's music. Pierrick Martin (rhythm guitar), Sylvain Couderc (rhythm/lead guitars), Loic Colin (bass) and Dirk Verbeuren (drums) create a solid wall of sounds by playing on their instruments with remarkable skill. Producer of this album is Daniel Bergstrand, known for his work with MESHUGGAH and STRAPPING YOUNG LAD. He has done his work perfectly adding to SCARVE's sound the psycho mood which is a characteristic feature of the true masters in the Industrial / Metal field. I almost broke my neck from headbanging when I heard SCARVE's version of ENTOMBED's classic *"Serpent Speech"*. Beyond any doubt, *"Luminiferous"* is one of the best albums in any aspect which I've listened to lately - don't miss the chance to enter SCARVE's world. If you are looking for first quality Metal of course.
 Tsvetan Rachev.....9,0

AMARAN
A World Depraved CD
LISTENABLE
 Maybe without Johanna De Pierre's voice AMARAN would have been just an average Death Metal band from Sweden. But by using female singing, the band manages to escape the clichés and to offer something non-standard instead. AMARAN are formed in the spring of 2000. In 2001

the band attract Listenable's attention and get a record deal. *A World Depraved* offers heavy guitar sound and fine heavy metal leads but the main point here is Johanna with her melodic singing. At places AMARAN sound like heavier version of THE GATHERING but they play their own music, it isn't just a copy of the Dutch masters. If Metal bands with female singers (I mean clear singing) are your cup of tea you'll like AMARAN for sure.
 Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

PUNISHED EARTH
Frankenstein CD
UXION
 This band doesn't stand out for something special, it's just the standard Death Metal stuff. PUNISHED EARTH's music doesn't require too careful listening - their simple structures are easy to follow, which is a real relief having in mind all those absurdly technical and fast bands nowadays. *Frankenstein* sounds like music for a party - something that just passes through your ears and can't attract your attention. Not bad but nothing interesting either.
 Tsvetan Rachev.....6,0

THORNFAIRE
Mortus Tenebrae Surrectus CD
SKULL CRUSHER
 THORNFAIRE from Chili play darkened Death Metal with the precious oldschool feeling of bands like ASPHYX and old ENTOMBED. The band exists since 1998 and *Mortus Tenebrae Surrectus* is its first CD (after the demo tape *"Granted for All Sorrowness"*). It contains six songs - a cover version of ATOMIC AGGRESSOR. THORNFAIRE's Death Metal will appeal to all those who like the Death Metal stuff from the early 90's. The production is on a good level. Look for this band if you're interested in qualitative South American Death Metal.
 Tsvetan Rachev.....6,5

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Overdrive - 20 Years Tribute Compilation CD
MIDAS
 As you might have guessed by reading the title, this CD is another homage to the keepers and supporters of the Music Extreme. This time obsequence is paid to Overdrive - a Belgian Metal Radio Show set up in... 1981. However, the very tribute features solely Belgian formations referred to various genres such as Speed, Thrash, Black and Death Metal. Hard Core... a perfect portrayal of Overdrive's openness and tolerance! Despite my respect for this tribute I shall admit that from the 18 bands included I liked really much only 5 namely URZMOTH, DOUBLE DIAMOND, WELKIN, DEDICATED and EXISTENCE DENIED... Yet another intriguing detail concerning *Overdrive...* is that the band names are set in such an order that one could read *"Tribute CD"* in a vertical position! Vanya Marinova.....6,5

HATE FOREST
The Most Ancient Ones CD
SUPERNAI MUSIC
 This Ukrainian band has been existing since 1994 / 5 and the CD it now offers is in fact a re-working of the demo / live rehearsal *"The Curse"*. Stylistically HATE FOREST are Black / Death Metal directed and the release itself is a pretty sufficient clue of what the album might be dealing with lyrically. The atmosphere is sensibly dark and I guess the HF members have actually achieved their goal of creating an opus in praise of the ancient times. The rhythm is ultrafast and the riffs are laced with sombre synth melodies but I could barely hear the drumming so. *The Most Ancient Ones* sounds somewhat unsold in my opinion. Not bad anyway so check this band out.
 Vanya Marinova.....6,5

DEFORMITY
Superior CD
DISPLEASED
 I haven't come across any of the limited 2 releases from this Belgian band but *"Superior"* is just great and I agree that it will turn a lot of heads! Indeed the album itself has been recorded at Excess Studios (HOWITSER, SINISTER) and contains 12 tracks of exclusively diverse and vigorous Death Metal with some Grind Core shades - a Molotov cocktail of vehemence, drum attacks, rumbling riffs and growls malignant with entrancing acoustic parts inserted. And here. A must - have for every selfrespecting deadbeater!
 Vanya Marinova.....8,5

ENTER CHAOS
Dreamworker CD
METAL MIND
 This Polish band has been founded this year as a side project by members of AZARATH, DEVILYN, TRAUMA, BEHEMOTH, DEMISE, DAMNATION, DAR SEMAI, AURAL PLANET and IMMEMORIAL - are your heads reeling, eh? Anyway, *Dreamworker* is a stunning Death Metal release that swirls the listener into the center of a vortex of both thick and versatile riffs, howling leads, immortally rapid drumming and outrageous growls done by... Lady *"MARTEX"*! You could also hear some weird Electro / Ambient moments here and there that lead to the more obscure mood of the entire album. Finally I will say that ENTER CHAOS have a great surprise for all those who still miss the cult AT THE GATES namely a smashing cover of *"Cold"*!
 Vanya Marinova.....8,25

HIGH ON FIRE
Surrounded By Thieves CD
RELEASE
 Since its forming in the late summer of 1998 this band has released *The Art of Selfdefense* in 2000 so *Surrounded...* turns out its second full-length. What it is about is killer Stoner Rock that is meant for blowing the listener off with massive and saturnine riffs plus decapitating solos woven here and there. Like 8 immense ocean waves the tracks on this CD will sweep you away to spit you out on lands unknown bathed in the velvet and inebriating grace of twilight... One of the coolest releases I have heard ever!
 Vanya Marinova.....8,5

PALE FOREST
Exit Mould! CD
LISTENABLE

I have had the opportunity of hearing Kristin Fjellseth's dulcet voice before (CREST OF DARKNESS) but hardly this year I was given the chance to acquaint with her main project. Thus, PALE FOREST turned out a melancholic Pop Rock release bringing visions of quiet winter noons with icecold windows and leaden skies. The tracks are very catchy and plainly constructed and if you need to relax even for a while then "Exit Mould" is highly recommendable!



DAS ICH
Anti Christ! CD
MESSAGE

I couldn't say that I am familiar with DAS ICH's works (if I don't count the several tracks heard from various compilations) but still I know that this German duo belongs to the group of the most respected representatives of the Dark Electro / Gothic Scene. "Anti Christ" appears to be DAS ICH's 13th album released on the 13th year of their career (!) and I don't doubt that this otherwise weird number should be regarded as the band's luckiest one in this case for DAS ICH's newest CD is noticeable for its majestically dark sound and I consider it as a real treasure for the collection of every Gothic fan.



TRIBE AFTER TRIBE
Same! MCD
THOUSAND THUNDERS

Hm... This formation appears to be the most mysterious one an album of which I have been sent for reviewing thus far! What I mean is that I was sent the release without any clue of neither where TRIBE AFTER TRIBE are from nor which label their MCD has been released via so I tried to get some info from the net but I failed once more! All that I managed to find was a review of another TAT album but nothing about a sametitled MCD though... Well that's truly Underground, bravo! Still I liked the uncanny atmosphere of "Tribe After Tribe" achieved by weird Ambient / Industrial noises. I guess I should ask some friends for the previous album - I am really intrigued!



DANCE MACABRE
Matters Of The Heart! MCD
HAMMERHEART

What the MCD from Finland's Goth / Dark Wave band DANCE MACABRE contains is the new (title) track in its original and remixed version, 3 remakes of tracks from the "Eva" CD (2001) plus a previously unreleased song and a couple of video tracks. I haven't come across this band before and I could say that "Matters Of The Heart" sounds not bad but there ain't nothing unheard before though. As if I discern some similarities

with CHRISTIAN DEATH, DREADFUL SHADOWS and SISTERS OF MERCY (to some extent)...

Vanya Marinaova7,25

ATROX
Terrestrials! CD
SEASON OF MIST

I remember that I came across this Norwegian band for a first time like 3 years ago (the "Silence the Echoes" 7" EP) and I was not impressed at all... But the CD I am listening to right now is simply delightful for the sake of its versatility and plenty of original ideas! Nocturnally mysterious and passionately insane at the same time, the 10 tracks in "Terrestrials" will certainly make the world you live in disappear to be then replaced by moonbathed woods filled with spectral laughers and unearthly dulcet chants ("Blame It" on Monika's unique voice).... A release highly recommendable for those who need to feel like being with feet off the ground!!



Vanya Marinaova9,75

THEATRE OF TRAGEDY
Assembly! CD
NUCLEAR BLAST

Well, this is a band that needs no introduction in my opinion. With the time (and albums) running, THEATRE OF TRAGEDY became one of the best Gothic formations. Since the very beginning the musicians were surrounded by crowds of admirers and disciples and thus turned the heads of the Metal press representatives immediately. THEATRE OF TRAGEDY's style is very specific indeed but what I like and respect them most for is their neverending aim at self-perfection by constant creative searching. Every forthcoming CD from this formation is better than the previous one yet more different. So I regard "Assembly" as the best result as yet both soundwise and concept-wise! This is a very modern and professional album and one could discern some changes and plenty of electronically experimental moments. I guess it must be the new guitarist Vegard Thompson and the new producer Håll Småa (HIM, APOCALYPTICA, MOONSPELL, 69 EYES) who have lead to the different sound of this very album but still this is THEATRE OF TRAGEDY with Liv Kristine's unique vocals contributing enormously to the band's individuality. With tracks like "Automatic Lover" (an awesome beginning!), "Let You Down", "Universal Race", "Flickerlight" and "Envision" this release appears to be one of this year's best albums!

Alanas Kostadinov9,0

IUVENES

"When Heroes Will Rise" CD
NO COLOURS

I have been told about IUVENES' resemblance with earlier BATHORY before and now, when I finally got the chance to give this Polish band a listen, I am completely speechless: "When Heroes Will Rise" is actually a "Blood, Fire, Death" clone! Vocals, riffs, everything...and I feel my rising curiosity of hearing the previous "Riddle Of Steel" CD as well! Hell yeah, IUVENES definitely succeeded in bringing me 14 years back and if this is what they have been aiming at towards the listeners, then con-

gratulations! But still I can assure you that acting in Quarthon's shadow would hardly work forever, dudes, so I advise you to start searching into your own path eventually... It was a pleasure of hearing you though.

Vanya Marinaova7,0

DESTROYER 666

"Cold Steel... for an Iron Age" CD
SEASON OF MIST

Being sent DESTROYER 666's latest CD for reviewing is one of the coolest surprises for me as yet! I loved this Australian band years back as soon as I gave a listen to its "Violence Is the Prince of This World" debut! With their latest release these Death / Black / Thrashers demonstrate perfect condition by submerging the listener once again into a maelstrom of derangingly fast drums and insanely howling leads! Lucky must have been all those who have seen DESTROYER 666 at events like Mind Over Matter, Fuck The Commerce or Dynamo Open Air... whatever. The album itself has been conceived at Sound Suite Studios with the assistance of Terje Refsnæs (ENSLAVED, GEHENNA, STORM, CARPATHIAN FOREST). Buy or DIE!!



Vanya Marinaova8,25

THOR'S HAMMER

"The Fate Worse Than Death" CD
NO COLOURS

Here is another homage to the early 90's Black Metal spirit... For those who might know not, THOR'S HAMMER is the brainchild of GRAVELAND's and INFERNUM's Capricornus and "The Fate Worse Than Death" is the band's third album. The CD would certainly appeal to all those who are into unpolished and wrathfully straightforward revelations.

Vanya Marinaova7,0

GRAVELAND

"Memory And Destiny" CD
NO COLOURS

Poland's GRAVELAND have returned with another opus obscure! Once more you are being carried on wings of black fog towards flames and smoke engirdled battlefields a crawl with specters so majestic in their sorrow that you can barely stop tears running from your eyes... I am not into epic BM in general but "Memory And Destiny" definitely brought me goose bumps! Words of whatsoever kind become nothing but meaningless shit when a release like that should be reviewed - this must be experienced!

Vanya Marinaova7,75

FENRIS

"Offerings To The Hunger" CD
FIREBREATH / T.E. Records

Honestly speaking, I was about to burst into laughter when I read the band's name at first as I found it kinda ridiculous... Nevertheless, these moods faded away as soon as I heard the very first tunes from FENRIS' debut. Despite feeling bored of Nordic myths inspired releases lately, I liked what these guys from the Netherlands have created - ferro-



cious Black Metal diversified by somehow sombre but beautiful guitar passages bringing a bit nostalgic shades in "Offerings To The Hunger". The album tracks are not devoid of some keyboard moments either but the melodies considered are applied really aesthetically and complete the overall picture. Don't miss this CD!!

Vanya Marinaova7,5

THE SIXTH INCUBATOR

"Live - Reincarnation - Ground Zero" CD
CUGEL AGENCY

I must admit that I have heard nothing from Chris Mummelthay's previous brainchild INCUBATOR (a German Death band from the early 90's) but his new project rips totally! This live (and debut) CD from TSI will fill you with bombastically grim and ecstatic glee - what you will hear is outrageous drumming, rumbling guitar riffs completed by insane leads and grunts like coming from the darkest pit of Hell! This all against the background of screams from the throats of a thousand maddened fans! The 14 Death Metal tracks on "Live - Reincarnation - Ground Zero" are additionally enriched by obscure industrial melodies that contribute to the unique atmosphere of this CD enormously. I cannot remember to have given a listen to such an album the tremendous wrath of which only Niagara could admirate!

Vanya Marinaova8,5

ILLNATH

"Angelic Voices Calling" MCD
Self Released

Formerly known as FLAGELLATION, this Danish outfit has been existing for 4 years and what its mini - album reminds me of in moments is CHILDREN OF BODOM. In other words, I couldn't agree more with the band members' own description of their music namely that it "ranges from the 80's Heavy Metal style to the more commercial Black Metal genre". Still I could feel sensible Death Metalish influence as well... The release is far from bad, the vivid yet thick riffs are arranged with catchy synth melodies and guitar solos but still I couldn't say that I remained really impressed as I have come across bands playing in this vein before. What I could mention in regarding "Angelic Voices Calling" in conclusion is that the album has been recorded with Tjodalv (SUSPERIA, ex- DIMMU Borgir). As for live appearances, ILLNATH have played with bands like WITHERING SURFACE, JEEL, BLAZING ETERNITY, etc. Web: <http://www.listen.to/illnath>

Vanya Marinaova7,0

CAYNE

"Old Faded Pictures" CD
SCARLET

This project of former LACUNA COIL and SADIST members would definitely appeal to all the fans of bands dealing with Dark Gothic / Metal blending. "Old Faded Pictures" belongs to that group of releases which may offer not innovative ideas but enthrall the listener with their gloomy, late-autumn-moods-filled catchiness. I myself am apt of associating CAYNE with PARADISE LOST's "One Second" or Sweden's DIABOLIQUE. Good job though!

Vanya Marinaova7,25

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BETO VAZQUEZ

"Infinity" CD
DRAKAR

I still can't believe my eyes: an album featuring so many famous!! NIGHTWISH's Tarja Turunen, BLACKMORE's NIGHT's Candice, STRATOVARIUS' Jörg Michael, EDENBRIDGE's Sabine and RHAPSODY's Fabio have gathered under the banner of the Argentinean songwriter Beto Vazquez (a member of the currently defunct NEPAL) to create a release that will surely fascinate the fans of the bands mentioned to supra... Even if, being not into those outfits as a whole, could not disagree that "Infinity" is one of the richest and most spectacular CDs in which grandiose symphonies mingle with medievally delightful flute melodies and arol guitar performances. A marvelous work that has resurrected the grandeur of centuries never seen!

Vanya Marinova.....8,0

AENIMA

"Never Fragile" CD
EQUILIBRIUM

This is the second CD in the discography of this Portuguese formation which has been devised in 1997. I haven't come across the previous "Revolutions" (1999) and I already feel curious of giving it a listen too for "Never Fragile" appealed to me very much! Musically I could refer it to the Gothic genre in general but still this definition would hardly work profusely when it comes to describing melodies that have gathered the whole beauty of a moonlit summer night! What you're going to hear in case you pick this CD up is 6 fascinating hymns the subtlety of which only the breeze whiffs could eclipse... The vocals are solely female and fit the music itself completely. Web: <http://www.aenima.org>

Vanya Marinova.....7,75

THE FALLEN

"Front Toward Enemy" CD
METAL BLADE

By the virtuosity the tracks are performed with one could easily discern that "Front Toward Enemy" is an album that has hardly been created by a 4 or 5 years old horde. That's it, California's THE FALLEN exists since 1992 and its latest release offers another solid Death Metal dose for the headbangers' eardrums. I could also distinguish some Thrashy and Heavy influences here that make the album sound more varied. Great job!

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

GORELORD

"Force Fed on Human Flesh" CD
BAPHOMET

Here is another horror films inspired release. This time the birthplace is Trondheim, Norway and the band's name is GORELORD - the project of a guy acting under the cover of his Frediablo moniker. Thus, "Force Fed on Human Flesh" is GORELORD's debut CD and it offers sinister Death Metal with exclusively ponderous riffage decorated with horror movies samples varying from standard bell chimes through bloodfreezing female screaming to the freaking out insect buzzing finale. The album itself has been recorded at Skansen Studio with Jehmond (BLOODTHORN, PERISHED, WURDULAK) behind the drum kit. Nothing new I hear on the whole but Frediablo has definitely done great work for a debut and I acclaim Killjoy for joining him under the Baphomet flag.

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

HIDDEN

"Spectral Magnitude" CD
RED STREAM

This is the debut album of HIDDEN and I found it a bit bovine and monotonous in the beginning but with every forthcoming track I started re-discovering "Spectral Magnitude" again and again by distinguishing interesting ideas in terms of composing. The music of this outfit has entangled 3 Metal genres namely Black, Death and Doom in such a delightful way that the tracks sound incredibly versatile and emotive! Hell yeah, it is not everyday when you come across really original releases...

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

SPELLCRAFT

"Tears Like Rain" CD
Self Released

Well, I couldn't say that this release froze me in rapture...Death/Doom Metally focused, it does not expose anything innovative so it would most likely appeal to fans who haven't heard too many bands referred to the combo I mentioned above. On the whole, "Tears Like Rain" is a catchy album and its track constructions are straightforward and not exceedingly decorated. Otherwise SPELLCRAFT hails from Italy and its discography includes also a demo CD named "Faded".

Vanya Marinova.....6,0

CREMATION

"Retaliation" CD
Self Released

This Dutch band has been born in 1993 from the ashes of DODEVAARD. I haven't heard CREMATION's other albums but "Retaliation" is a cool one anyway. What it is about is straightforward and dynamic Death Metal - no more, no less! I recommend this CD to every diehard deathbanger with pleasure!

Web: <http://www.cremation.nl>
Vanya Marinova.....7,5

GOLD FUR EISEN

"Heimat" CD
INTERREGNUMMUSIK

This outfit from Germany exists since 1996 and "Heimat" is its second CD. When I gave it a first listen I was apt of considering it as pretty monotonous - I must have been not in a listening / reviewing mood... Now I could say that GOLD FUR EISEN plays rather intriguing Death Metal but I could distinguish some other genre shades too. In other words, I find "Heimat" catchy in its own (weird) way and I believe it will appeal

to people into more non-standard releases. The very GOLD FUR EISEN name comes from the times of Independence wars against Napoleon's occupation in 1813 and 1814.

Vanya Marinova.....7,0

TREE

"No Remorse" CD
DREAM CATCHER

What the album from this act from Boston offers is a Hard Core / Punk / Rock blend. The tracks will certainly delight many fans with their straightforwardness and thickness against the which the frontier River demonstrates great condition expressed in vertiginously fast changes from plain singing to screaming insane and vice versa... Otherwise, TREE exist since the late 90's so you doubt not that by picking up the "No Remorse, No Remorse" CD you will hear a paragon of skill!

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

DAKRUA

"Shifting Realities" CD
SCARLET

I haven't come across DAKRUA's previous CD "Inner Wastelands" 1999 but "Shifting Realities" appealed to me very much for the sake of its diversity and remarkable simplicity at the same time! The 11 tracks included are Gothic Metally directed and will certainly enthrall the listener with brilliant guitar performances and unearthly beautiful yet kinda melancholic atmospheres... The vocals are both female and male and literally stun with their emotiveness and power! As for DAKRUA themselves, they hail from Italy and you could learn more about them by visiting their site - <http://dakrua.mind.com>

Vanya Marinova.....7,75

ENTER MY SILENCE

"Remotelycontrolled Scythe" CD
MIGHTY MUSIC

Finland's ENTER MY SILENCE exist since the late 1995 and they have been known as CAPTIVITY previously. "Remotelycontrolled Scythe" is the band's debut full-length and it will be most welcomed by fans of the melodic Death Metal genre. What makes the album tracks noticeable is their exclusive thickness bringing somewhat saturnine moods. This CD shines bright with its original layout done by Niklas Sundin (DARK TRANQUILITY). Good release as a whole so get in touch.

Vanya Marinova.....7,0

FORNICATOR

"Fornicator" CD
MORIBUND

If you are scared at night...never dare listen to this CD. Well, musically it is just a plain Death / Grind thing, but the images on the CD cover and the weird inserts between the songs tell you that FORNICATOR have a strong passion for serial killers, murderers, rapists and all the other guys that we like to put into one simple description namely "nasty guys". And the back cover is a funny picture of...see it for yourself. The bad side of it all is that you never know if these bands do it for serious or fun prevails; well, I would buy it just for entertainment and I would advise them to go off the pathological topics. Too worn out and the music is good...nothing good about the lyrics though, they are dark and perverse...as expected.

hvallo Tonchev.....6,0

DIM MAK

"Intercepting Fist" CD
MIGHTY MUSIC

The Death dinosaurs DIM MAK (ex - RIP-PING CORPSE) have showed up with their second CD and I believe that deathbangers do have a reason for rejoicing as "Intercepting Fist" kills totally with its fierce uncompromisingness! I must admit that I haven't given "Enter the Dragon" a listen yet (could you hear everything after all?) but DIM MAK's latest release actually threw me at the center of a tremendous maelstrom achieved by headreeling speed and grinding riffage! The CD has been produced by Eric Rutan (MORIBUND, HATE ETERNAL) who has also been involved in RIP-PING CORPSE in the past. Many of you may regard this piece of info as unnecessary but do not forget the uprising deathbangers who should be given some clue of what is what...

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

BONGZILLA

"Gateway" CD
RELAPSE

Well, you can trace a lot of BLACK SABBATH influence here - steady Stoner Rock with song topics mostly dealing with grass and the various side effects of smoking - the most important one for anyone feeling desirous of "getting" stoned. Ha, ha, hah... the music is actually great, a lot from the spirit from the 70's here and that is great. The lyrics are a bit weak, but the music compensates it all - being raw, slow and really good. If only the lyrics were more original...pot topic is getting used too much lately, I think...

hvallo Tonchev.....8,0

NODE

"Sweatshops" CD
SCARLET

This Italian band has been formed in 1994 and its discography so far features two MCD's and two CDs plus the one I am listening to at the moment. What I hear is Death Metal in the Swedish vein with some Thrash / Heavy influences. The 9 tracks included are rather versatile and will surely delight the ears of everyone who is into outfits such as THE HAUNTED, ARCHEMY or AT THE GATES. The album itself has been recorded at the Swedish Underground Studios and produced by Pelle Saether (NECRODEATH, CARNAL FORCE, TERROR 2000). Cool job I think!

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

VISCERAL BLEEDING

"Remnants Of Depravation" CD
RETRIBUTIVE

WOOF! VISCERAL BLEEDING is certainly a band the members of which are capable to smash every single fan with brutality and haunting spite! And it seems that this band is the serial convincible proof that Grind Core is rising relentlessly...I find this great myself, especially when it comes to acts such as VISCERAL BLEEDING, acts that take the best possible features from this genre namely ghastly inhuman growlings or alternatively fast and insipid riffs. Hell yeah, these dudes do have what to show you all! So trust 'em...

Diliana Iankova.....8,0

SUBLIME CADAVERIC DECOMPOSITION

"Same" CD/LP
BONES BRIGADE

20 songs of steady Grind Core... much influenced by AGATHOCLES. It is a pity that I can't take a look at the lyrics but if you ask me about the music, it is awesome. If you like Grind Core and love vinyls - this is for you. Nothing very exceptional - just plainly good and brutal!

hvallo Tonchev.....6,5

NUDE

"Cities And Faces" CD
SCARLET

Wow, what a cool surprise especially for all Gothic / Dark Wave fans! "Cities And Faces" is the debut release from the Italians NUDE and with the very first track ("Transistor Fate") it entrances you yet makes you wish this CD could be spinning faster so that you would hear all the 11 songs as soon as possible and click "play" again. This is an album filled with unspeakably dark beauty that urges your thoughts hover smoothly without direction surrounded by the velvet serenity of the immortal void... Fantastic!

Vanya Marinova.....7,5

MEATSHITS

"Gorography" CD
MORIBUND

If horror and porno meet somewhere, it is surely here. I remember MEATSHITS for their fucked up covers of their late 80's / early 90's 7" and this CD contains a material recorded in early 90's. The cover is sick and the songs are mostly excerpts of various porno / gore flicks. It is not politically correct to say good words about this, but I still think the MEATSHITS were quite funny and I often tend to forgive them the bad taste in some of the songs. Musically it is 50% effects and the rest is that crazy lo-fi noise they were famous for. The press release says it is a "legendary lost / unreleased album". Well, legendary is a bit of an exaggeration as all their stuff sounds the same, but the music itself is good and funny, let you exclude the porno. Still it is the legendary Robert Deathrage / Meat Shits... so expects no ballads about lost love here!

hvallo Tonchev.....6,0

BRAVE

"Searching For The Sun" CD
DARK SYMPHONIES

This girl fronted band from the US has been born in 1997 as ARISE FROM THORNS first. "Searching For The Sun" is their debut longplayer and I find it very, very promising! What it offers is 12 tracks of melancholic Progressive Metal with fantastic guitar performances (Scott Loose) which, along with the dulcet voice of Michelle (Scott's sister), contribute to the unique atmosphere of the album a lot. Can't wait to hear more from this band in the future!

Vanya Marinova.....8,0

CORRUPTION

"Pussycat" CD
METALMIND

Listening to this CD is a very interesting experience - blending tiny bits of 70's Rock, Stoner Rock and Heavy Metal and bits of reggae and... here it goes... I like it, but what can be really improved is the sound. I do not like the mixing. Maybe it can be fixed...and I guess a more simple sound could do wonders for this band. The CD features a multimedia part and also 2 bonus songs namely covers of BLACK SABBATH and DEEP PURPLE. Not a band to be missed but the sound makes me nervous after the third song. Try other studios, guys!

hvallo Tonchev.....7,0

DIABOLIC

"Vengeance Ascending" CD
SEASON OF MIST

Fantastic and exclusively extreme Death Metal! After the "Supreme Evil" debut DIABOLIC returned with an album that literally floored me with its defiant and brutally desecrative descants! Painfully ferocious and obsessive at the same time - that's what these 11 hymns of darkness are! The track that appealed to me most was "All Evil Inside" (the second in line in the album) and I really doubt if I will manage to push it away from my head soon... Blasphemous drumming, mayhemously blistering guitars and evilly growling vocals is what you're going to hear in "Vengeance Ascending". DIABOLIC is certainly a band that you MUST NOT omit!

Diliana Iankova.....9,0

MEATSHITS

"Violence Against Feminist Cunts" CD
MORIBUND

Another lost jewel from the Noise Core classics. Recorded in the mid 90's, never released back then, now re-released with ultra - brutal artwork: what else do you want? Music is just like the other MS stuff on all the others - though here you can spot some industrial tunes. They are mixed with dance tunes, porno flicks sounds and this works for me fine. Not bad, not bad...but only for the people that can find it funny. Otherwise, all these naked ladies, whips and HC porno get too much on my nerves...

hvallo Tonchev.....6,0

HRSAHRARK

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"Architecture Of Perfect Damnation" CD

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ARRIVAL

An Abstract Of Inertia CD
EDGERUNNERS Records

I must admit that this is a band that I have never heard of before so I've just acquainted with it by giving a listen to its "An Abstract Of Inertia" CD. And guess what? I turned the music louder as soon as I heard the first riffs from the album! Hailing from Finland, Arrival stand out for their unique style expressed in both manner of composing and atmosphere intensified by obscure synth melodies. This is a band the music of which makes you feel like you're flying smoothly in the air further and further - to the entrance leading to ARRIVAL's mysterious world. A magnificent Black Metal release created with passion and remarkable adroitness! Get it or regret it.

Diliana Iankova

9.25

HOMO IRATUS

Human Consumes Human CD
ARCTIC MUSIC

A band from Greek immigrants for an American label? By looking at the cover I predicted some generic third rate Death / Nu Metal... In fact you get an industrial sounding Death Metal with enough energy to blow the entire globe. Nice lyrics, great music and... a good album to make it. It reminds a bit of SEPULTURA, but only a bit as HI manage to make a good and raw sound without copying the Brazilians. Even the ethno mixture in the last song sounds original. It is the first of the 4 albums that will be recorded for ARCTIC Music / USA... so I am expecting the others too. Can you get me their early demos? Would love to hear them too...

hailo Tonchev

8.0

ORIGIN

Infinitas Inhumanitas CD
RELAPSE

Rolling flesh, stench, maggots, insects... That's what you're going to associate this album with since the very beginning - an eloquent clue of what is to come next in case you have the guts to dive deeper into ORIGIN's music. By the way I suppose that some of you still remember the band's debut? Well then, after the 2 years of silence ORIGIN return with a new bassist namely Mike Flores who has taken the place of Doug Williams (ex-CEPHALIC CARNAGE). As for the music, this band just stuns with its smashing Death / Grind expressed in vehement drumming and riffs standing out for their aggressive incandescence. Deranging, absolutely deranging!

Diliana Iankova

9.25

VELOCIDAD ABSURDA

Fisico Tortura Emocional MCD
Self Released

It's good, not really original but good... 7 songs in 21 minutes, grinding Death Metal with Spanish lyrics - I like it. Somehow it reminds me of the early 90's bands, like EXULCERATION (Switzerland) and brought back memories of my teen years when I was a teenage Grind Core maniac. I wish it could last longer. Looks like VELOCIDAD ABSURDA have released this CD themselves...so support DIY Grind scene.

hailo Tonchev

8.0

DISGORGED FOETUS

The Gore Party CD
IMPALE

Well, with all these Gore bands it is hard to know if they take it seriously or not. I can bet my left nut this is made as a joke, yet somehow I do not want to lose it, and I can't endure the blood that will be shed. Throwing up 11 ultra brutal songs for 23 minutes with vocals that can make you crawl in your grave and eat every maggot around... it is surely not to be missed. The cover is EXTREMELY bloody and sick. Somehow I would like to listen to some ROLLING STONES after this CD?!

hailo Tonchev

6.0

POPPY SEED GRINDER / DEFEATED SANITY

Split CD
GRODHASH Productions

Two bands on one CD and the first starts with some apocalyptic screams and sounds - as if Satan is nailing you to the cross - and then it all bursts into cheerful Grind Core. PSG are more like Death Metal / Grind, while DS are more Thrashy, with a more visible 80's sound. Both bands are good, yet not anything I would like to hear more than once. It has been repeated so many times.

hailo Tonchev

5.5

SEVERE TORTURE

Butchery Of The Soul MCD
HAMMERHEART

"Butchery Of The Soul" is released before SEVERE TORTURE's second CD "Misanthropic Carnage" and contains a re-mastered version of "Butchery Of The Soul" (from their first full-length "Feasting On Blood") as well as songs from two already sold out 7" EP's and a cover of CANNIBAL CORPSE's classic "Pervert Suffering". Those of you who have heard SEVERE TORTURE's debut should know what to expect: brutal Death / Grind influenced by the Cannibals with mad tempo, outstanding bass parts and brutal vocals like Chris Barnes'. There's also a video of the song "Butchery Of The Soul". All fans of CANNIBAL CORPSE will like this album - SEVERE TORTURE may not be something unique but what they do is great and deserves attention.

Isvetan Rachev

7.0

CARVE

Silbom Revelations CD
BLACK HOLE

Another band from Brazil that still has not noticed that the 90's are over. Thrash Metal with a fast edge, not bad but it has been done hundreds if not millions of times before. It sounds like a mixture of DEATH + OBITUARY + MORBID ANGEL... the so famous Tampa sound, much adored by everybody in the early 90's. Surely good and well performed, but nothing new. Aghh, I have just noticed they are actually from Sweden... worse!! - a Swedish band that imitates the Yankees is much worse...

hailo Tonchev

4.0

AGORAPHOBIC NOISEBLEED

Frozen Corpse Stuffed With Dope CD
RELAPSE

I really wanted to like it, but somehow this CD didn't work for me. It is raw, fast, short songs yet there is something that bothers me. They were much better on their old 7"

EPs and this is just an album. 38 songs for 33 minutes is one good proposal for a Hard Core / Noise Core band, but it gets on my nerves. Some songs are great, some are just effects and sound like being samples. Well, it is surely NOT bad, but I am not happy with it. Something lacks, but I do not know what yet.

Ivalio Tonchev

5.0

INRAGE

Built To Destroy CD
SCARLET

It just happens that bands like THE DEFACTO, RECLUSION and INRAGE fall into exactly the same category for me. If you happen to like one of the bands, then you'll surely love the other two as well. There is something like a tendency among Thrash bands to put that awful industrial touch into it all. I don't know why! Perhaps they are such big fans of DARKANE that they just can't help mirroring them? The bad thing is that the songs in the debut album of INRAGE are very good, but that modern "hi-tech" sound gets me really pissed! If the guys really like that ... OK then, no problem, but I somehow feel that they intended to sell some more copies by altering the natural Thrash Metal sound in that way. Well, I will stop here. There are some good guitar riffs here and there, but this is not Thrash Metal for me! A typical band of the "Jove it or hate it" type. You choose!

Stoyan Tzonev

6.0

LENG TCH'E

Death By Thousand Cuts CD
THE SPEW Records

Well, Grind Core with pathological lyrics and images on the cover. It is not either the first, nor the last band to get inspired by images of extreme brutality and gore. I can surely listen to it, but again it is hard being original in this area of extreme music. Similar to AGATHOCLES a bit. By the way, they come from Italy - that adds some flavour to it all. Good release but not different than many others.

Ivalio Tonchev

6.0

TYRANT

Legend CD
DISCEASED

It was a killer surprise to hear this Japanese band! What the music of TYRANT deals with is melodic Black Metal with an unforgettable atmosphere; on the top of it, this band features a (very beautiful) female fronted (Kaisuke) whose voice sounds much alike Cadaveria's and she also appears TYRANT's bass player! What I should say about the rest of the band is that I find the drumming a bit monotonous but still quite relevant at the same time. I was very impressed by the solos that complete TYRANT's music perfectly! In short, this is a band that I view as a real challenge for every Black Metal fan, a band that sounds even better than many European acts!

Diliana Iankova

8.0

NECROPHOBIC

Bloodrhythms CD
HAMMERHEART

This was one of the most awaited albums this year! "Bloodrhythms" brings one of the best Swedish Death Metal bands back and stronger than ever! In the absence of DISSECTION the undoubtedly kings of the Swedish Extreme Scene are NECROPHOBIC. I will tell you why. From the opening track "Taste of Black" to the closing instrumental "Among the Storms" NECROPHOBIC assault the listener with non-stop aggression, razor-sharp guitar shreddings and what distinguishes them mostly from the crowd is GREAT MUSIC! There is magic in this band, simply because they are able to combine the SLAYER aggression with catchy melodies and absolutely ominous atmosphere in an unique entity. There are NO keyboards here, ladies and gentlemen! Just the excellent guitars of Mr. Ramsiedel and Mr. Bergeback. The album is united around the concept of blood and you can hear that word in every song in "Bloodrhythms". The CD booklet design is really great! Congratulations, guys! In conclusion... this album is obligatory for all Death and Black Metal fans or they will forever burn in heaven!

Stoyan Tzonev

9.5

TEARS OF DECAY

Saprophyt CD
CUDGEL AGENCY

Here is the debut CD from this German band. Apparently TEARS OF DECAY are into the most extreme forms of the Death Metal genre and are strongly influenced from the Grind Core style at the same time. "Saprophyt" sounds incredibly good for a debut release and the production quality is on a very high level as well. What I remained impressed by the most was the drum parts - fucking rapid and enviably diverse. Just delightful!

Diliana Iankova

7.5

KING DIAMOND

Abigail II ... The Revenge CD
METAL BLADE

This is something I cannot understand. How can I judge about the quality of an album when only I have only 30 minutes of it, distributed into only three full-time songs and full-time intro and outro, while all the other 9 tracks can be heard in no more than about 1:30 min. of their real timing. The only result of this is to just cripple the songs and deprive them of their charm and overall feeling. The three full-time tracks presented are "The Storm", "The Wheelchair" and "Spirits". I also downloaded "Mansion In Sorrow" from the net. What I can say is that the second chapter of the Abigail saga is certainly not as good as the first one, but surely deserves the attention of not only hardcore Diamond fans, but also other Heavy Metal listeners. The ability of KING DIAMOND to write theatrical songs and albums is still amazing, so rush out to purchase this new horrifying story by the King! Stoyan Tzonev

8.0

ESIREGEN

Farbenfremdes CD
LAST EPISODE

Well, this is not a band which most of us haven't heard before (actually I can't remember which in line this album appears to be...). Anyway, I would describe ESIREGEN's music as Death / Black Metally orientated and pretty boring in moments. The lyrics are in German and this fits the music itself fine. In brief, I find "Farbenfremdes" rather primitive and monotonous but if you are fans of all what ESIREGEN have released so

far then this very CD will appeal to you as well!

Diliana Iankova

6.0

RITUAL CARNAGE

The Birth Of Tragedy CD
OSMOSE

The new album of RITUAL CARNAGE is another slab of Western, Bay Area-style Thrash Metal from these Japanese Metal mads. The album is monolithic and is listened to in one breath. The style is something like early FORBIDDEN, INCUBUS etc. Tracks like "Fall of the Empire" or "Grave New World" impressed me a lot with their catchiness and good musicianship. I found the loud drums in the front of the mix a bit irritating, but perhaps the guys like them that way... You can find a great cover of DEATH's "Infernal Death", as well as two bonus tracks on the digipack version. To cut the long story short... nothing sensational but still something enjoyable to headbang on!

Stoyan Tzonev

7.0

FROST

Cursed Again CD
RAGE OF ACHILLES

WHAT the heck urges these dudes playing music - is this album a vendetta for their neighbours or something? The production of "Cursed Again" is extremely bad, the riffage is so tedious and I could barely hear the vocals... No doubt, FROST's amateurish oldschool BM is a way of the guys to express their hate for someone.

Diliana Iankova

4.0

BEWITCHED

Rise Of The Antichrist CD
OSMOSE

BEWITCHED easily became one of my favourite bands of the new generation of Heavy Metal. Yes, I put them in the Heavy Metal brackets, because the feeling of this band bears some similarity with bands like VENOM and MERCYFUL FATE in the first place and then SLAYER. The music is energetic, veerey catchy and with those trademark satanic lyrics. The only negative side of this album is the similarity of the tracks. I hope that the band will come up with something more diverse and equally catchy with its next release. However, BEWITCHED can be proud of "Rise Of The Antichrist"! Go on guys!

Stoyan Tzonev

8.0

STORMLORD

At The Gates Of Utopia CD
SCARLET

Beginning with a majestic melody that calls visions of grandiose combats from the Medievals, this album then transforms to a beautiful bunch of synth and guitar melodies laced with vocals ranging from plain singing through vociferating madness to obscure grunting. The tracks go both ponderously as a gigantic waterfall and smoothly like a bird flight to levitate you emotionally towards dimensions yet unseen... With their new keyboardist Simone Scaccapico STORMLORD actually present a bombastically fascinating CD which will be certainly welcomed by numerous Black Metal listeners!

Diliana Iankova

8.75

AMON AMARTH

Versus The World CD
METAL BLADE

The ability of this record label to sign talented bands is just incredible! I personally think that Metal Blade is the label with the greatest number of qualitative bands around. AMON AMARTH is the next example for that. Their new album "Versus The World" finally establishes this band as one of the leading forces in Death Metal. I have been keeping an eye on this band since their very start, but "Versus The World" is surely their best album! Each of the 9 songs has a different atmosphere and feeling. The style is still AMON AMARTHIAN but this album is simply much more inspired than the previous recordings. Maturity then obviously means quality! The listener can easily find great musicianship and skill in these songs. All of them are really good, so I strongly recommend this CD to all Death Metal fans. Another positive thing in my opinion is the fact that this is the first album of AMON AMARTH that has been not recorded in the Abyss Studios... it is simply fresher! Hear it and you will see what I mean!

Stoyan Tzonev

9.5

NINNGHIZHIDDA

Demigod CD
DISCEASED

Here is the second CD from this German band the name of which has been most probably engaging the brains of many people for the sake of its weirdness. Whatever, "Demigod" turned out a mournfully beautiful, symphonic - Black Metal release that also could be distinguished for its vigour. A must-have album for all those who crave after heading for darker dimensions!

Diliana Iankova

9.0

TAETRE

Divine Misanthropic Madness CD
MIGHTY MUSIC

Honestly speaking, TAETRE's latest CD surprised me hell of a lot - I could say that I have re-discovered this band to some extent... What I mean is that the Black Metal riffs known from "The Art" and "Out Of Emotional Disorder" are sensibly replaced by Death Metally influenced ones plus some Thrash shades! Nevertheless, once more the TAETRE fans will have the opportunity to enjoy the band members' adroitness. By the way, there are some line-up changes here - Conny and Danyal are a part of TAETRE no longer and the new members are respectively D. K. (bass and backing vox) and Maggot (guitar). "Divine Misanthropic Madness" has been recorded at Andy La Roque's Los Angered Recordings and Andy is also an album guest with his participation in "Paradox" and "Virus".

Diliana Iankova

9.0

THOTEN

Beyond The Tomorrow CD
SCARLET

The debut album of the Brazilian Power Metal band THOTEN is produced by Kiko Loureiro (guitarist of ANGRA) and includes 10 songs + one bonus of decent melodic Power Metal. What I can say is that this band is heavily influenced by their countrymates ANGRA with this exception that THOTEN use more keyboards and the result is not so in-your-face as with ANGRA. The songs are good but nothing extraordinary can be found here. The latest ANGRA CD is 10 times better. Anyway, I believe that THOTEN will improve with the future and their next album will surely contain more memorable songs. You can visit their web-page at www.thoten.com and learn more about them!

Stoyan Tzonev

6.0

MEPHISTOPHELES

Modern Instinct's Purty CD
LAST EPISODE

This is the third release from Germany's MEPHISTOPHELES and I still remember how fascinated I remained by the band's previous two CDs namely "Landscape Symphonies" (1997) and "Songs Of The Desolate Ones" (1999). I guess the Thrash moments is the only difference here but this difference definitely contributes to the more diverse sound of this Black / Death Metal outfit. Despite the radical line-up changes, MEPHISTOPHELES didn't change stylistically and this is really amusing...

Diliana Iankova

7.75

TORN

Violent Ecstasy CD
SEVERE MUSIC

This Finnish act exists since 2000 and its members are not unknown I should say - in the line-up list you could read names such as Aki Jarvinen (ex-NIGHTSIDE, SHADOWS OF SUNSET) on guitars and vocals, and Atte Makela (ex-CRIMSON MIDWINTER, SHADOWS OF SUNSET) on drums. TORN also feature Tuomo Latvala on bass and Tuomas Karppinen on guitar. Thus, what these guys have created together is a remarkably skillful Death Metal album with a lot of darkness in it achieved by bloodfreezingly baleful riffing. A fantastic release for a debut!

Diliana Iankova

7.5

CARVED IN STONE

The Forgotten Belief MCD
SCHWARZDORN Production

When I gave this MCD a first listen it strongly reminded me of BLACKMORE'S NIGHT! Now I can say that this one-woman project sounds more gloomy and spreads its own charm through wintery sombre acoustic melodies and synths against the background of which Swawa's dulcet voice is remarkably fascinating! Conceptually "The Forgotten Belief" appears to be another release in remembrance of the ancient Nordic myths and traditions. What I could say about this German lady in conclusion is that playing music is not a new experience for her as she has been a keyboardist and a female singer in DARK INTENTION and PAIMON and is currently involved in a Pagan Metal outfit named TAUNUSHEIM.

Vanya Marinova

7.5



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NECROPHONIX
'Reality Lost' CD
 Self Released

I must admit that this is my first ever encounter with the essence of U.S.A.'s trio NECROPHONIX and, although I have come across plenty of Industrial / Ambient projects as yet, these guys definitely succeeded to entrance me! What the *'Reality Lost'* CD offers is 10 tracks of obscure Industrial music generously decorated with thick and rhythmic riffs that contribute enormously to the more severe sound of the release itself. Bringing visions of dimly deserts across with distorted life forms, NECROPHONIX' longplayer is meant to lead you to the edge of your own self thus to make you feel the fragility of the serpentine writhing between the conscious and the subconscious... A blood-drippingly awesome homage to contempt for life and retrograde angst! Eternal thanks to DJ Negro for sending me the CD.

Web: <http://www.geocities.com/necrophonix>
 Vanya Marinova8.75

THY MAJESTIE
'Hastings 1066' CD
 SCARLET

THY MAJESTIE is pointed out as the next band of the caliber of RHAPSODY coming out of Italy. Well, I am not a RHAPSODY fan! However, I played this CD with curiosity, since I had heard their previous album before, *'Hastings 1066'* is a drastic improvement over the previous album of THY MAJESTIE (damn! I can't remember its name) and proves that the guys are flying high. There are really great tracks here that have a very little to do with RHAPSODY and have their own style and charm - *'Rerum Memoria'*, *'The King And The Warrior'*, *'Through The Bridge Of Spears'* etc. My remarks are that the songs are somewhat similar to each other and don't grab you by the throat so that could make you wish to play that album again. I would recommend this CD to diehard fans of LABYRINTH, RHAPSODY or LOST HORIZON, but I prefer to listen to the new albums of W.A.S.P., RUNNING WILD or HAMMERFALL for example.

Stoyan Tzonev7.0

TERROR 2000
'Faster Disaster' CD
 SCARLET

Well, finally a decent Thrash Metal from Scarlet Records. The second album from TERROR 2000 really surprised me with its old-style, straightforward Thrash with excellent production. I remember their debut album *'Slaughterhouse Supremacy'* for its decent compositions which were however hampered by the too-Swedish-sounding vocals and production. In *'Faster Disaster'* the guys have obviously tried to make the band more old-school and this is certainly better! With the very first track, *'Back With Attack'* the pack is out to kill with furiously fast guitars, wonderful solos and catchy melodies. The same goes for the rest 9 songs; in short, this is really an enjoyable ride for every tough Thrash Metal fan!

Stoyan Tzonev8.5

NOMENMORTIS
'Misantroph' MCD
 DOWNFALL

This outfit didn't impress me with anything but with its spontaneous brutality. What you should expect from NOMENMORTIS is relentless Death Metal in rather mediocre level at the same time. In other words, *'Misantroph'* is a paragon of disharmony, even though the musicians manage to achieve harmony in some moments this doesn't seem to work really much...

Diliana Iankova5.0

ARACHNES
'Apocalypse' CD
 SCARLET

ARACHNES is beyond any doubt one of the best bands in the Scarlet Records catalogue. Their third album *'Apocalypse'* is the best release from that label for 2002 and I think that they are really lucky to have signed with a band like this. The style of ARACHNES is Heavy / Progressive Metal with great melodies, interesting song structures, which are not too complicated for the listener and wonderful vocals from Enzo Canzo. I personally place this band even above Italy's celebrities as RHAPSODY and LABYRINTH. Believe it or not, *'Apocalypse'* is much better than the latest albums from these two bands. ARACHNES is much more interesting and varied than STRATOVARIUS and EDGUY too. These guys need very little to reach the heights of my other favourites in the style named SYMPHONY X: All fans of good Heavy Metal can get this CD, because such an inspired Metal album can be heard very seldom nowadays.

Stoyan Tzonev9.5

APOTHEOSIS
'Farther From The Sun' CD
 NOCTURNAL ART

Definitely this Maltese one-man band would appeal to all those who need to feel like being off the ground... What APOTHEOSIS' only member Sauron has created is a hybrid of symphonic music (featuring flutes, pipes and the like) and Black / Thrash Metal. Although being 50 min. long, the *'Farther From The Sun'* release consists of 4 tracks, which sound remarkably majestic and victorious... Still I couldn't say that I was fascinated of APOTHEOSIS. The production is far from good as well.

Diliana Iankova6.0

ETERNA
'The Gate' CD
 SCARLET

Well, which is the best Brazilian Power-Speed Metal band after ANGRA after all? Is it THOTEN or ETERNA? I am a bit irritated by these advertising tricks, but ETERNA is the next band from Brazil which competes for that title anyway. Surprisingly, this is their third album, since I haven't heard anything about them before. However, I should say that I haven't lost much. *'The Gate'* offers 12 pretentious Heavy Metal compositions with laughable attempts at incorporating Progressive arrangements, which only blur the overall impression after all. Besides, the keyboards are awful! The songs are similar to each other and after I have heard the album 2-3 times, nothing remained in my head. ETERNA is just another average Metal band on the scene for me. *'The Gate'* is light years away from the new album of ARACHNES, so guys: learn from the better!

Stoyan Tzonev5.0

RUNEMAGICK
'Requiem Of The Apocalypse' CD
 AFTERMATH

Although RUNEMAGICK are Death Metal influenced to a great extent I am not prone to categorize them firmly as a band referring to this very genre as I could discern shades of other styles. The 13 tracks in *'Requiem Of The Apocalypse'* offer plenty of slow dark melodies featuring a lot of synth parts and this all appears to be the background against which grunting voices spread their angst. This is RUNEMAGICK's fourth full-length album and what their discography includes is also the *'Ancient Incantations'* 7" EP since 2001 and a live album.

Diliana Iankova6.75

ORANGE GOBLIN
'Coup De Grace' CD
 RISE ABOVE

OK, THAT is an enjoyable band! ORANGE GOBLIN is maybe the best substitution of BLACK SABBATH for me these days! Their fourth album *'Coup De Grace'* serves another portion of 12 Heavy songs with a strong 70s flavour, humorous lyrics and really CRUSHING sound. The sounding of the new CD is more bass-loaded and somehow rawer than the previous record, *'The Big Black'*. There are really memorable songs here like the bone-breaking *'Made of Rats'*, the catchy *'Born With Big Hands'* or the punky *'We Bite'*. The closing track *'Sinkin' O Gin'* starts with an excellent bluesy guitar solo! ORANGE GOBLIN is equally enjoyable and talented as MONSTER MAGNET with this difference that the former are much heavier and rawer. So, if you still feel nostalgic for the glorious 70s, go grab the new GOBLIN album and be careful with the beers!!

Stoyan Tzonev8.5

REPROBATION
'The Colour Of Gore' MCD
 FOREVER UNDERGROUND

Psychodelic and brutal Death / Gore is the clue of what REPROBATION sound like. The combination of throaty brutality and ponderous sound that *'The Colour Of Gore'* offers will definitely drown the (right) listeners in the vortex of carnivorous ecstasy and eternal delight obscene!

Diliana Iankova6.5

RUNNING WILD
'The Brotherhood' CD
 G.U.N. Records

The 12th studio album of the German Heavy Metal legends RUNNING WILD is already a fact! Rock'n'Roll's energy seems to be endless and album after album he proves that he lives, eats and breathes METAL! The line-up is once again completely different with Rolf remaining the sole member also present in the latest opus, *'Victory'*. However, this fact doesn't stop him at all to deliver 10 excellent tracks in *'The Brotherhood'*. The album surprisingly sounds much more inspired and fresher than the last one and all tracks carry their individual atmosphere. The album is mostly mid-tempo, with the only exception being the speedy pirate hymn called: *'surprise! - Pirate Song'*. The album's best moments are *'Soulstrippers'* (could easily be a part of my favourite *'Black Hand Inn'*), *'Crossfire'* and *'Dr. Horror'* (with really memorable chorusses), the wonderful instrumental *'Siberian Winter'* and the final track the 10 - minute long epic *'The Ghost'*. This is maybe the best RUNNING WILD song for years! It can only be compared to *'Treasure Island'* or *'Calico Jack'*. Read more about the album in our exclusive interview with the mainman Rolf Kaspark somewhere in this issue of Brutalica Magazine! In short RUNNING WILD is back for blood!

Stoyan Tzonev9.5

REIGN OF TERROR
'Therapy Of The Impaled' CD
 EVIL VENGEANCE

I don't think that it is hard to guess what this outfit is musically oriented to especially when you know where it hails from namely Mexico... Thus, *'Therapy Of The Impaled'* is a hyper blasting Death / Grind album sensibly influenced from the works of bands like MORTICIAN and DISGORGE. I have to admit that REIGN OF TERROR have done good job by releasing a CD with plenty of sickeningly obscene riffage that will certainly fill you with boundless vigour!

Diliana Iankova6.5

WITCHERY
'Symphony For The Devil' CD
 NECROPOLIS

This is WITCHERY's best album. It is incredible how the band has matured over their three previous releases. In *'Symphony for the Devil'* WITCHERY have found their niche in the overpopulated Heavy Metal scene. The vocals (the only element that seemed to irritate me in the past) are performed perfectly here and are much more varied than in *'Dead, Hot and Ready'*. The greatest impression is made by the songs diversity. Every track in the album has its own character and is easy to remember. The melodies and the guitar work are excellent. A real pleasure for me was to hear the instrumental *'Hearse of the Pharos'* with the guest guitarist Hank Sherman of the legendary MERCYFUL FATE. The thrashing attacks of *'Wicked and Shallow Grave'*, the theatrical atmosphere in *'Inquisition'* or the originality of compositions like *'Unholy Wars and Called for By Death'* speak of a really great album! The CD also contains two bonus tracks and a great cover layout. WITCHERY are now definitely among the best bands in their field and the future looks only bright for them!

Stoyan Tzonev9.5

OPHIOLOGY
'Evangelistic Process' CD
 EVIL VENGEANCE

Well, what this album deals with conceptually is a jihad against all the sectarians in the world and music itself appears to be the weapon of these Brazilians. I do not know what the religious ones would feel in case they happen to come across OPHIOLOGY's CD but I am sure that *'Evangelistic Process'* will appeal hell of a lot to every diehard fan of the Brutal Death Metal sound! The music of OPHIOLOGY is incredibly fast and emphatically unique at the same time!

Diliana Iankova7.25

GENEROUS MARIA
'Command Of The New Rock' CD
 LUMASOUND

This is a new band from Sweden, playing again in the so-popular nowadays 70s Rock style. *'Command of the New Rock'* offers nothing sensational, but nevertheless the songs are quite enjoyable. Something spe-

cific for the band's style is the distorted sounding which however is skillfully applied here. The bass parts are very heavy, almost CATHEDRAL-like and the vocalist is interesting to listen to. I always love to hear bands like GENEROUS MARIA, which are easily distinguished from the crowd, despite the fact that their releases are far from groundbreaking. I personally prefer to listen to MONSTER MAGNET and ORANGE GOBLIN, but anyway, fans of the so-called Stoner Rock wave can dig *'Command of the New Rock'* up and add it to their collection.

Stoyan Tzonev7.0

RECUER MORBIDE
'Hurt By Human Race' CD
 DEADSUN

Ugh, I am definitely far from considering this release as a fuel in emotional level! What I heard from *'Hurt By Human Race'* was exclusively blatant riffage diversified by some chaoticity from time to time... This overall picture of tedium is (relevantly) completed by insane vociferations and forceful drumming.

Diliana Iankova5.5

MY DYING BRIDE
'The Dreadful Hours' CD
 PEACEVILLE

This album was released at the end of 2001, but we received it now and Brutalica Magazine feels obliged to offer you a review of one of the leading bands on the Doom Metal scene. You cannot mistake MY DYING BRIDE, the mournful vocal work and the haunting, ultra-slow riffage of their music is already a trademark. What makes impression here is the fact that the tendency towards a more extreme sounding of the vocals and a rawer mix of the final product is continued after the previous release *'The Light at the End of the World'*. What disappointed me in this new album is the fact that, despite the long running-time, there was only one song that stuck in my mind after I've heard the album two times and that was *'The Raven and the Rose'*. With this song, MY DYING BRIDE show CRADLE OF FILTH who are the real masters of darkness here! Nevertheless, the rest of the album simply gets boring and monotonous - something, which has been avoided in *'LATEOTW'*. The compositions still offer great musicianship but the vibe is lost after the third track. An interesting fact here is the presence of a reworked version of the classic *'Return of the Beautiful'*. MY DYING BRIDE are surely capable of doing much better albums, but this new one is not among the best.

Stoyan Tzonev7.25

SACRIFICIAL
'Autohate' CD
 MIGHTY MUSIC

'Autohate' is SACRIFICIAL's third longplayer and I must admit that the 9 Death / Thrash Metal tracks included sound rather specific... I really enjoyed all those melodies, which, although strongly reminding me of THE CROWN, are not devoid of uniqueness! The riffs shine with their terseness and dynamics and one could also distinguish some Hard Core influences here and there. In short, this CD must not be omitted!

Diliana Iankova7.25

DENATA
'Deathtrain' CD
 ARCTIC MUSIC GROUP

'Deathtrain' appears to be the second full-length album of the Swedish thrashers DENATA after their debut *'Departed to Hell'* since 2000. The style of this band is energetic Thrash with some Death Metal influences and this could be mostly felt in the vocal style. Regrettably, there are more negative than positive remarks towards the *'Deathtrain'* album. The usual complaint about the music's monotony is ever present here. Not even one track that could really impress me here. It seems that DENATA have recorded 11 versions of one and the same song, added an intro and said that they have done their second album. Apart from that, the sound mix is not at the desired level. In the presence of so many qualitative bands in the genre, DENATA should make some serious effort to rise above.

Stoyan Tzonev6.0

CANNIBAL CORPSE
'Gore Obsessed' CD
 METAL BLADE

What do you think would the Extreme Metal Scene be like if CANNIBAL CORPSE didn't exist? I couldn't find the answer of this question but still I am sure that many things would have been different... Anyways, *'Gore Obsessed'* is the serial opus coming from CANNIBAL CORPSE - one of the best selling Death Metal bands in my opinion! Once more you are being given the opportunity to enjoy the rapid guitar riffs and adroit leads bringing visions of gory scenes and cannibalistic delight... This all appears to be the sinister background against which George Corpesgrinder grows so maliciously that statements like *'CANNIBAL CORPSE - Chris Barnes = 0'* sound ridiculous and childish! The album itself has been recorded at the same studio where *'Bloodthirst'* has been conceived but the producer this time is Neil Kernon (QUEENSRYCHE, NEVERMORE, MACABRE). A great surprise for the (old) METALLICA fans is the smashing *'No Remorse'* cover!

Diliana Iankova10

FOREFATHER
'Engla Tocyne' CD
 ANGELUS ENTERPRISES

A GREAT BAND!! This is what I call epic! It is a shame that I haven't discovered such a qualitative band earlier but now I know that FOREFATHER stands beside fellow-countrymen BAL - SAGOTH in the Epic Metal field. *'Engla Tocyne'* is the third album from this band and this is easily one of the best releases in 2002. The seven opuses, glorifying the forefathers of the English nation are incredible compositions of extreme, yet melodic Metal, with wonderful vocals which, along with the softer sound, are the main features that distinguished FOREFATHER from BAL - SAGOTH. The compositions are all very catchy, with memorable chorusses and true medieval atmosphere. The music of this band is very hard to describe: it must be heard to be felt. I am positive that with each following release, FOREFATHER will prove that truly talented musicians can find the way to success. Glory to you, brothers!

Stoyan Tzonev10

ARISE
'The Godly Work Of Art' CD
 SPIKEFARM

Finally I was given the chance of hearing ARISE as well! This band plays killer Death Metal that fits perfectly my musical preferences! Fueling up with its dynamics and diversity, *'The Godly Work Of Art'* just couldn't get you bored; all the tracks sound remarkably plain and unartificial, and although I distinguish some similarities to HYPOCRISY in moments, I think that ARISE have found their own style!

Diliana Iankova8.75

IMPERIAL SODOMY
'Tormenting The Pacifist' CD
 CRIMINAL

I cannot remember to have been given a listen to other French band playing Death Metal in such a brutal way! These guys must be as rapid as the light itself, especially when it comes to the drum parts! *'Tormenting The Pacifist'* could be also distinguished for its thickness in riffage and throaty moroseness. Get IMPERIAL SODOMY's CD or regret it!

Diliana Iankova7.0

HEIMDALL
'The Almighty' CD
 SCARLET

Well, this is the true Power Metal vocalist! Giacomo Mercaldo of HEIMDALL delivers the performance which lacks in the album of MANTICORA for example. *'The Almighty'* is the third album of HEIMDALL and there are some great songs here, like the epic opener *'The Calling'*, and the following *'The Search'*, *'Eternal Race'* or *'Godhail'*. The keyboards sound well here and the compositions are quite catchy. One of the problems is that after the fourth song the album gets boring and the magic is somehow lost. I only remembered the first few songs from *'The Almighty'*. The band obviously has potential, but they should by harder to create a compact album, which to stand out as a whole.

Stoyan Tzonev7.25

CARCARIASS
'Killing Process' CD
 ADIPOCERE

I would classify this act as a Death Metal one in general but the truth is that *'Killing Process'* also includes plenty of beautiful guitar solos which, although being sharper in sound, inevitably call associations with the atmosphere intrinsic to the Power Metal bands. These French melo-heads have actually created a bunch of majestic hymns noticeable for their meaningfulness and completion!

Diliana Iankova8.0

MASSGROUND
'Emblem Stay Evil' CD
 ECLIPSE

Japanese Grind! These two words unite bands like S.O.B., C.S.S.O., C.U.M., GORE BEYOND NECROPSY and hundreds of other bands dwelling in the darkest levels of the Underground and driving crazy many devoted maniacs from all around the world. MASSGROUND is the next Grind Core threat from Japan. After numerous splits EP's and tapes, they finally release their first full album. MASSGROUND offers more oldschool Grind Core in the vein of good old NAPALM DEATH and TERRORIZER. The drumming is hellish fast, perhaps these Japanese freaks are the next Grind band preferring to use a drum-machine instead of a real drummer? *'Emblem Stay Evil'* ends with covers of the above mentioned cult bands who put the beginning of the whole Grind Core movement in the second half of the 80's. The last track is something like a remix of a MASSGROUND song and sounds totally twisted!

Tsvetan Rachev7.5

MERIDIAN
'The Seventh Sun' CD
 SEASON OF MIST

No doubt, this melodic Black Metal band has opened for me the gates to a new dimension in the genre. *'The Seventh Sun'* is a very impressive album the sound of which seems to be kind of sharpened but this only contributes to its expressiveness and eloquence. You wouldn't believe but I could also discern some Techno shades in the rhythm itself and, despite being against such combos of Metal and Techno, Electro or whatever, I concern MERIDIAN's CD as a gorgeous challenge for the fans! Excellent work for a debut as a whole, that's what I should state. Last but not least, *'The Seventh Sun'* features MORGUL's Jack D Ripper as a guest vocalist!

Diliana Iankova8.5

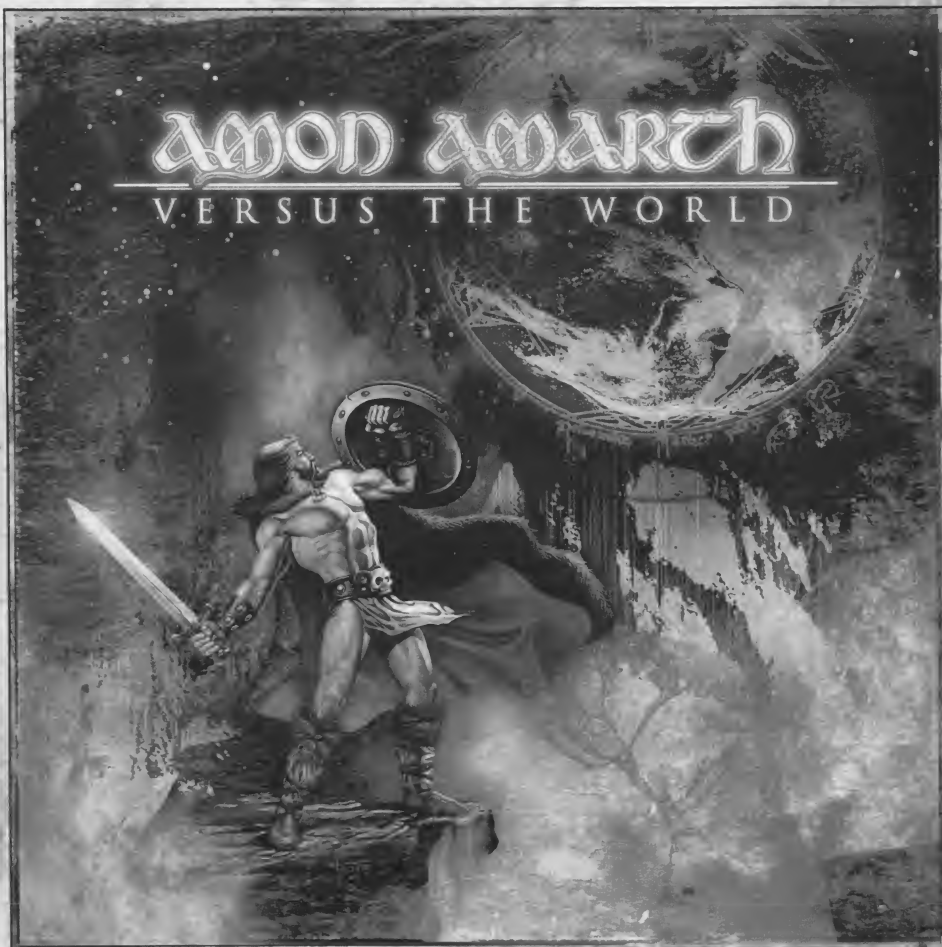
BLUDGEON
'Crucify The Priest' CD
 METAL BLADE

I guess it isn't easy to be the first band released by the label of no one else but Joey De Maio. This is what BLUDGEON has achieved after spending a few years in the Underground circles of Chicago. But don't think that BLUDGEON are playing Power Metal, they attack with Death Metal closer to the sound of BOLT THROWER and OBITUARY. BLUDGEON also take influence from the ancient Bay Area Speed / Thrash Metal wave. If you find the last BOLT THROWER CD disappointing, I think BLUDGEON will satisfy your craving for oldschool Death Metal. Joey De Maio has produced that album and has made some really good work - the sound is great! Metal Blade distributes this album worldwide and if you consider yourself as a Death Metal fan, get this album - it's really worthy!

Tsvetan Rachev7.5

LYMBONIC ART
'The Ultimate Death Worship' CD
 NOCTURNAL ART

I really cannot comprehend what makes so many people glorify this band so much! The more I listen to this CD the surer I feel that it has no place in my collection but in a friend's. I am not even capable of hearing *'The Ultimate Death Worship'* from A to Z at once, the truth is that I



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DESENSITISED
Thriving On Carnage MCD
REEDIN HEMMORROID

That's a cool name for a record label, don't you think? It's so gory...Forget it, I'm joking. DESENSITISED and their new MCD are the theme of this review so let's see - the info sheet says they're from the Netherlands and play brutal Death / Grind. After hearing the CD I can't agree with this definition. DESENSITISED play simple Death Metal with Thrash rather than Grind influences. The vocals are two types - one deep and grunting and more screaming one, like the typical Thrash Metal vocals. This band exists since 1994 and have played with such Grind legends as ROT, AGATHOLES, DEAD INFECTION... and I can't understand why a band that has such experience behind their backs play so traditional and uninspiring music. There's nothing here that stands out among the thousands similar releases that pour out every year. If you think you can swallow another ordinary Death Metal, mail to: desensitised@gmail.com

Tevetan Rachev5,5

POEMA ARCANUS
Iconoclast CD
AFTERMATH

This is the second album from Chile's POEMA ARCANUS and I must admit that I am rather impressed... "Iconoclast" turned out a melancholically delightful Doom / Death Metal release with plenty of (enigmatically deep) keyboard melodies and male singing reminding a lot of MONSPELL's Fernando's vocals! I could distinguish some influence from the Portuguese Doomsters in the music as well but still POEMA ARCANUS do shine with their own ideas! Lyrically the band members have resorted to both English and Spanish. Very nice surprise from Latin America, do not miss this CD!

Vanya Marinova7,5

HOMO IRATUS
Knowledge... Their Enemy MCD
ARCTIC MUSIC GROUP

Wow! It is not everyday when I come across REALLY qualitative Greek records... Hell yeah, I find the Hellenic Metal sound kinda stiff on the whole but, "Knowledge... Their Enemy" blew me off for its vigour! The MCD consists of 4 tracks (incl. an awesome cover of "Roots Bloody Roots") of killer Death / Core with remarkably thick and ponderous riffage, neckbreaking drumming and haunting grunts. Otherwise, HOMO IRATUS have been existing since early July 1998 and their discography also includes a demo released just a month after their forming ("Absence Of Progress") and a longplayer since 2000 ("Human Consumes Human"). As for live appearances, the guys have opened a show for MALEVOLENT CREATION at Thessaloniki.

Vanya Marinova7,5

MENTAL HORROR
Proclaiming Vengeance CD
DEATHWOMIT

Definitely this is not my piece of cake! What I hear from Brazil's MENTAL HORROR is aberrantly rapid and vehement indeed but still monotonous Grind / Death with insaniely howling leads and vocals ranging from throaty hostility to screams like coming out from a ripped off leprochorn... "Proclaiming Vengeance" is actually the second album from these dudes and I really doubt if the previous "Screaming For Vengeance" (2001) offers anything different. Nevertheless, I recommend MENTAL HORROR's CD to all those who are fond of acts being for utter brutality in music. I prefer to keep linking Brazil to SEPULTURA, SARCOPHAGO, MYSTIFIER or my latest faves JAILORI!

Vanya Marinova5,0

NEUROSIS
A Sun That Never Sets CD
RELAPSE

Shame on me but I haven't had the chance of getting acquainted with NEUROSIS's music before. For what we have here is a nearly 20 year old band! Thus, they have been formed in Oakland, California back in 1985 and their discography so far includes a double CD with demo recordings since 1987, a couple of longplayers respectively since 1995 and 1999, an EP since 2000 and... the CD I am listening to right now that dates since the 13th of August 2001. What it offers is saturnine Doom Metal that has gathered the whole gloom of (late) autumn - my favourite time of the year, by the way! Whenever you decide to go to the forest while it's being drenched in the tears of November, do not forget to take your discman and "A Sun That Never Sets" with you!

Vanya Marinova8,25

UNDER MOONLIGHT SADNESS
Genesisis CD
X-RATED

I have heard this name before without feeling so much interested that to give this band a listen though...The latest CD from UNDER MOONLIGHT SADNESS turned out a very catchy release influenced from various Metal genres such as (symphonic) Black, Death, Speed and Heavy... The 4 tracks are laced with plenty of awesome solo parts, spacy synth melodies plus intriguing effects that contribute to the more unique sound of the album itself. Yet I could hear some falsettos here and there and this strongly reminded me of KING DIAMOND! As a whole, the "Genesisis" atmosphere is emphatically dark and enigmatic and this will certainly appeal to many, many fans!

Vanya Marinova7,5

SHADOWS FX
Same CD
IMPACT

Like these Brazilians have stated themselves, their music unites elements from various genres such as Death, Doom, Thrash and (traditional) Heavy Metal...Death Metal prevails though as I could hear from the thick riffs and the vocals. The "Shadows FX" CD is noticeable for its diversity expressed in versatile alternation of incandescent, straightforward riffage and awesome leads with melancholically beautiful acoustic parts. The tracks are additionally arranged with plain keyboard melodies and you could also hear some female singing here and there. Cool CD, give it a listen!

Contact: lshadows@hotmail.com

Vanya Marinova7,0

SALEM
Collective Demise CD
IMPACT

Although SALEM is one of Israel's oldest outfits (it was founded back in 1985), I haven't heard any of its previous releases but I know this name for years though. What I am listening to right now is Black Metal plus some other style shades. "Collective Demise" definitely does not shine with aggressiveness but I cannot deny SALEM's members routine (we speak of a 17 year old band after all) expressed in versatile track constructions. Save the typically BM screams and riffage you are also being given the opportunity of plunging into the exotic Israeli atmosphere achieved by the Afro-Cuban percussion or the Arabic darbuka parts applied here and there. Some of the tracks feature female vocals in addition. Cool release anyway, I think I have to move my arse and try to find some more stuff from SALEM!

Vanya Marinova7,5

WITHOUT FACE
Deep Inside CD
DARK SYMPHONIES

It is not easy for me to refer this Hungarian act to any concrete genre as I could distinguish plenty of influences from various styles such as Progressive, Gothic and some Hard Core even... "Deep Inside" is WITHOUT FACE's debut longplayer and it shines with a lot of freshy ideas and emotiveness. The vocals are both male and female and you could also hear some screaming that I myself find intrinsic to HC bands basically... I enjoyed the beautiful synth and acoustic parts and the skillful leads most. Otherwise, WITHOUT FACE exist since 1997 but still are supposed to be very well experienced live. The bands they have played with so far are THE GATHERING, ZEROMANCER, THE KOVENANT, ANATHEMA and many others.

Vanya Marinova7,25

CRUEVO / BRAINOIL
Split CD
SHIFY

I just cannot decide which of these 2 bands I like more - both CRUEVO and BRAINOIL are fuckin' scorcher! This split CD appears to be the crossroad where Metal / Core Incandescence meets saturnine Stoner / Doom thickness both to give birth to the gigantic tornado that is meant for all but leaving your house untouched!! If I have to judapose CRUEVO and BRAINOIL though I will only say that both outfits are inspired by the genres mentioned above but still CRUEVO seem to be more doom while BRAINOIL have taken more from the Metal / Core vehemence in return. Nevertheless, the guys of both acts are well experienced musicians already as they have played before that in bands such as MEDITATION TIME, SQUAT and ELUDPA (this about CRUEVO) and DESTROY, GRIMPLE and LANA DAGEALS (BRAINOIL). No doubt, the Oakland Scene keeps on breathing - lets not forget that it gave birth also to NEUROSIS and HIGH ON FIRE!

Vanya Marinova8,5

GRIFFAR
Of Witches And Cets CD
ISO666

Hey, I know this band! I was sent the same material for reviewing last year but it was on MC back then. Anyway, I remember that I found the result very good for a debut and I think the same too now but, on the other hand, I have heard so many bands that sounded the same way that I would cheat if I tell you that I am really impressed... GRIFFAR play fast Black Metal reminding of earlier IMMORTAL in moments and, on the top of it, the guys' inspiration source is magic, paganism and so on. The same old story, you see. At least the 4 tracks are performed with a great deal of adroitness and this is not a surprise for me as both Draikhan and Madorov are involved also in other bands respectively BLACK DEMENTIA and PROFANE. Darkkhan has toured as a session guitarist with Norway's TAAKE in 2001.

Vanya Marinova6,75

INSISION
Beneath The Folds Of Flesh CD
WICKED WORLD

I had the opportunity to give this Swedish band a listen last year and it appealed to me hell of a lot for its angst and versatility! Now I have the pleasure of reviewing INSISION's debut CD as well and I must say that the band members demonstrate their perfect form once more by offering the same killer Death / Grind that I heard from the "Demo 2000" and "Revelation Of The Sado Goat". I am not into such acts in general but when something is done well you just cannot call the black white!

Vanya Marinova7,0

RAIN FELL WITHIN
Refuge CD
DARK SYMPHONIES

Hearing BRAVE or WITHOUT FACE was quite a sufficient clue of what the essence of the American label Dark Symphonies is on the whole so I more or less knew what to expect from RAIN FELL WITHIN. Still this band appealed to me for its dismally epic atmosphere. The tracks on "Refuge" are generously decorated with piano and synth tunes, and the vocals are solely female and bring moods that remind of Finland's NIGHTWISH a bit. Anyway, I am far from labeling RAIN FELL WITHIN as copycats as their music is TOTALLY different from that of the band mentioned at supra - what "Refuge" offers the listener is unforgettable journey through Time and Space and Gothic / Metal fans should merely get in touch!

Vanya Marinova7,25

SONS OF CHAOS
Redwork CD
BLOODSOAKED

Starting with a majestic intro, the album from USA's SONS OF CHAOS then bursts to crushing Death Metal that will certainly delight the ears of all deadbangers into DEEDS OF FLESH, CANNIBAL CORPSE or MORBID ANGEL. The 9 tracks on the "Redwork" CD display perfectly SONS OF CHAOS' routine and passion for music extreme - what these guys have created is a deranging vortex of sinister growls, rumbling riffage and ultrafast drumming... Death / Grind admirers, order NOW!

Vanya Marinova7,0

VARIOUS ARTISTS
Swedish Assault Compilation CD
RELAPSE

As I can see, none of the 6 bands included in this compilation is known to me... "Swedish Assault" appears to be part 4 of a very meant to present bands referring to various scenes in the world. The acts I am listening to right now are orientated to the Death / Core genres and their names are as follows: SAYADINA, GADGET, ASSEL, BIRDFLESH, GENOCIDE SUPERSTAR and DISFEAR. The CD outstands for its exclusive dynamics and I am sure that it will make your blood boil!

Vanya Marinova7,25

CHRIS CONNELLY
Private Education CD
DARK CATCHER

"Private Education" is the second solo album from Chris Connelly who is supposed to be one of the main figures in the Industrial music for his contribution to the Scene by being a part of such cult acts as MINISTRY, REVOLTING COCKS, DAMAGE MANUAL and PIGFACE. What you should be expecting from Chris' latest CD is plain acoustic music that is noticeable for its (somehow) sad maturity... The "Private Education" title speaks rather eloquently of the album message in addition - climbing the mountains of life is apparently the only way for you to come to the "as above as below" conclusion and thus learn to get rid of this burden of vanity which had been hiding so much truth from your eyes. This is a CD that will certainly awaken the philosopher in you!

Vanya Marinova7,5

ALLFADER
From The Darkest Star CD
RAGE OF ACHILLES

Honestly speaking, I didn't expect to like this CD after I read where this outfit was from and what it offered stylistically... In other words, I thought I would hear another pathetic release inspired by Viking battles and so on, especially when I read the very band name (ALLFADER - Father Of All). Anyways, "From The Darkest Star" managed to convince me that there is still fresh blood in Norway when it comes to creating Black Metal. Thus, ALLFADER's re-recorded discs are uncompromising and skillfully performed enough to shut the mouths of all fans yawning with tedium so I would recommend this CD as 100 % worth buying!

Vanya Marinova7,25

ARGON / DAMOKIS
Split CD
Self Released

Here is some more stuff from the Malaysian Scene... The ARGON / DAMOKIS split will certainly delight the ears of every connoisseur of gridding, truly Underground things. The recording simply smashes for its grimly thick and unpolished sound! The pleasure of having this CD in your collection is additionally guaranteed by both ARGON's and DAMOKIS' members skill! Order immediately!

Contact: argon.tybb@time.net

Vanya Marinova6,5

IN AETERNUM
Past And Present Sins CD
NECROPOLIS

My first encounter with the essence of this Swedish act occurred back in 1998 when the "Forever Blasphemy" debut was released and I remember I liked it a lot... I haven't heard the follow-up "The Pestilent Plague" though and I guess I should check it out as well for the latest "Past And Present Sins" just blew me off for its fierceness!! The CD considered has been conceived at The Abyss Studio with the assistance of Tommy Tagtgren so this is quite a sufficient clue of the awesome quality and production of the album itself... As for the CD content, it features 14 tracks 4 of which taken from live performances plus some previously unreleased stuff and cover versions of VENOM's "Countess Bathory" and KING DIAMOND's "Abigail". A stunning abruptness of IN AETERNUM for their 10th anniversary!

Vanya Marinova7,5

DYSPRAXIA
Reestablishing The Equilibrium MCD
Self Released

"Welcome To The Real World" and the gruesome journey starts... What Spain's DYSPRAXIA have for you is utterly chaotic Grind / Death that is definitely not for all! Otherwise, this band have emerged from the ashes of IMPACTO FECAL (born in 1993) and all that I could write in their plus is their participation in Steel Warriors Festival in Portugal along with bands like PUNGENT STENCH, ABORTED, INFERNAL, ROTTENNESS and GOLDENPYRE yet other live appearances with DEEDS OF FLESH, CEREBRAL TURBULENCY, ALIENATION MENTAL etc. For those who might be interested, here are the following links: <http://www.dyspraxia.extreme.com>

Vanya Marinova5,0

TODAY IS THE DAY
Sadness Will Prevail Double CD
RELAPSE

I heard TODAY IS THE DAY's music for a first time last year when I was sent their "Live Till You Die" CD and I was totally floored down by their eccentric antics! The double compilation I am listening to at the moment traces back the path walked up by TODAY IS TODAY for 10 years... Within the frames of nearly 150 min you have the chance of learning what Music sounds like when all the barriers fall! One of the most weird and innovative acts which I have come across ever... Get The Psychedelic!!!

Vanya Marinova9,0

HIRAX
El Diablo Negro MCD
DEEP SIX Records

What I was sent for info regarding this band from LA was several reviews respectively from Terrorizer, Noize Magazine, Mass Movement, Harder Beat and some more... Thus, what my room filled with was decapitating Thrash / Core sounds that definitely made me feel very, very nostalgic for times being separated from me by a chasm that keeps on widening for like 13 years! Dammit, won't somebody

invent the time machine finally!?

Web: <http://www.hirax.org>

Vanya Marinova7,5

HARVIST
A Glean In The Night CD
DARK HORIZON

Looking for REALLY innovative Black Metal bands in the US is like looking for internet cafes in Afghanistan on the whole... What I heard from HARVIST was not devoid of skill and angst yet I could discern some intriguingly dark synth moments but still I couldn't find anything original in general. "A Glean in the Night" sounds very predictable and I think that you should be aware of like 10 Black Metal bands in order to find this CD intriguing and worth buying respectively. However, this is my opinion so give this band a listen for yourselves...

Vanya Marinova5,0

WOLFEN SOCIETY
Conquer Divine MCD
HOUSE OF DEATH

Now THAT almost did me in: a project featuring members of ACHERON (RIP), DARK FUNERAL, INCANTATION and THE ELECTRIC HELLFIRE CLUB!!! On the top of it, the sound engineer is Tommy Tagtgren... I don't know, I gradually comprehended that too many fames under one banner bring average results in most cases especially when they all are on one and the same level - it is like watching a mediocre illustration the beauty in which you could describe only if you concentrate on the separate figures. Such thoughts were hovering in my head while I was reading the WOLFEN SOCIETY bio but their "Conquer Divine" MCD eventually turned out not bad - at least it made me remember Vincent Crowley's awesome voKILLities as well as to enjoy Lord Ahriman's rhythmic guitar lines and Ricktor's leads... As for the release itself, it contains 3 Black / Death Metal tracks plus a cover version of "Race War" (anybody remembers CARNIVORE?). Still, I remain pessimistic about all-star bands!

Vanya Marinova7,25

THINE
In Therapy CD
PEACEVILLE

This is THINE's second release after the "A Town Like This" debut (1998). What it is about is catchy and gloomy Alternative Rock inspired, like the band say, by paranoia & conspiracy, self-loathing, conscience, impending tragedy & degeneration, love & death and so on... The 12 tracks included are straightforwardly constructed and simply enchant for their unastute melancholy. Alan Gaunt completes the overall picture perfectly with his somber and clean vocals... This is a CD that brings visions of white walls, straight jackets and inadequate smiles...

Vanya Marinova7,25

THE BEAST
Fixed By The Devil MCD
PAINKILLER

The person standing behind this HELGian project is ENTHRONED's Normagest who decides to form THE BEAST in order to apply some ideas supposed to be unsuitable to his main band... Thus, fans of raw satanic revelations - rejoice! Extremely primitive and weird, this Black / Death MCD sounds like it has been conceived in the darkest pit of Hell: grimly rumbling riffs laced with godlessly growling incantations and uncanny screams... Dammit, I can't remember to have heard something SO impactantly evil lately! Can't wait for hearing THE BEAST's full-length album which Normagest and Co are working upon at the moment...

Vanya Marinova6,0

SEAR BLISS
Forsaken Symphony CD
RED STREAM

I have been trying to remember where I have heard this name before and the end result amounts to zero as yet. Whatever... Despite being fed up of bands like that lately this CD appealed to me for its superbly dark and mysterious atmosphere achieved solely by the unearthly keyboard riffs. "Forsaken Symphony" fits this incandescent sympho - Black Metal release very well as a title and I believe that every connoisseur of such outfits will be adding this CD to his / her collection with pleasure. As for SEAR BLISS themselves, they hail from Hungary and their live appearances so far include an European tour along with MARDUK since 1997 and many gigs with KREATOR, TORMENTOR, DARK TRANQUILITY, ANATHEMA, DARK FUNERAL, DISASTER, ANCIENT RITES, ROOT, KRABATHOR, INCANTATION, TIAMAT, etc...

Vanya Marinova7,5

CORPUS MORTALE
Succumb To The Superior MCD
Self Released

This Danish act dates since 1993 and currently features former INIQUITY / SATURNUS members. What CORPUS MORTALE's latest material deals with is thick and morose Death Metal with a lot of oldschool shades in it. Although I have never been a diehard fan of bands referred to the genre mentioned above I liked this MCD for the guys' adrol performances expressed in benvignting leads, vigorous drumming and schizoid vocals... So far CORPUS MORTALE have played like 40 shows with outfits such as DERANGED, DYING FETUS, HYPNOS, INIQUITY, VADER, NIGHT IN GALES, EXMORTEM, PURGATORY, FURIOUS TRAUMA, etc.

Vanya Marinova7,25

DIAGNOSTICO FINAL
Involucion CD
Self Released

Here we have something from Argentina... DIAGNOSTICO FINAL offer pure and simple Thrash Metal in the vein of SLAUGHTER or AMEBIX. The album tracks are with Spanish lyrics and this very fact contributes to the more incandescent sound of "Involucion". In brief, this CD was a great surprise to me and I recommend it to all those who might be missing the 80's spirit!

Web: <http://www.diagnosticofinal.com.ar>

Vanya Marinova7,5

INTERVALLE BIZZARE / MALIGNANCY

Split CD
SHINDY Productions

This split CD features recordings of INTERVALLE BIZZARE - the newest expectation of the Czech Underground, and USA's deadly machine MALIGNANCY. Many people in the Czech Republic think that namely INTERVALLE BIZZARE is the band with the biggest potential of creating something really meaningful or - why not? - a serious breakthrough abroad. Yes, this band is fucking technical and skilled, their style is very diverse, ultra brutal Death Grind, but I still can't free myself of the feeling that these guys haven't shown their full potential. It is obvious that they attempt to create really unique and original music but they sound a bit chaotic in moments, as if they are still in search of themselves. Calm down, folks, the future lies ahead, I'm sure you will succeed! By the way the cover of BRUTAL TRUTH's 'Walking Corpse' rules! MALIGNANCY sound a bit more mature, they have several albums and split CDs behind their backs. Especially the legendary Roger Beaudry for being a part of MORTICIAN for more than 10 years. The style is hyper brutal and guttural Gore Death Grind. This band is also very technical but not as technical as INTERVALLE BIZZARE anyway. MALIGNANCY's sound is more dense and powerful, the guys use a drum machine and it gives their songs that (insane) speed they aim at. Also, Danny Nelson's vocals are incredibly brutal, a real nightmare. A very good split CD which is a must for all fans of the ultra brutal in music!

Chavdar Tzachkov7.0

SAD HARMONY

SAD HARMONY hail from the Czech Republic and what their CD strongly reminds me of in moments is the mid PARADISE LOST works. Still these guys expose their own fresh ideas regarding composing so I am far from labeling them as another horde of copycats! The 10 "Elektra" tracks are noticeable for their versatility and catchiness and I see no reason for any devoted Doomster to purchase not this release!

Vanya Marinova7.25

INCANTATION

"Blasphemy" CD
NECROPOLIS
Here is a band that needs no representation. "Blasphemy" is like a new beginning for INCANTATION after they left Relapse Records to join Necropolis Records. Second, the band's longtime drummer Kyle Severn returned. Thus, the guys keep on sticking to their trade mark Hellish Death Metal with some very fast and headbanging attacks but still I could distinguish slower and more doomy, depressive moods here and there. INCANTATION's mastermind John McEntee stands behind "Blasphemy" as well - the new CD contains 11 compositions veiled in massive dark atmosphere filled with classic Death Metal riffs and blasting lightning fast drumming. This album is like a storm that lulls in moments only to burst even wilder. It is hard to say if this is INCANTATION's best material so far, but it unites everything necessary for satisfying the classical Death Metal fan - incredibly skillful playing, diverse and technical compositions, outstanding and powerful production and incredibly hellish atmosphere.

Chavdar Tzachkov8.0

HATESPHERE

"Blooded Hatred" CD
SCARLET
What an impact from these Danish guys!! "Blooded Hatred" is only the second long-player of HATESPHERE but it smashes with its headreeling vigour and skillful performances... A suicidal blend of the HAUNT-

ED and ARCHENEMY is what will blow you off in case you have the guts of getting in touch with Scarlet Records and order this CD! Hell yeah, I am completely speechless: HATESPHERE have been existing only since 1993 and they must have worked really, really hard in order to achieve such stunning results for such a short period of time... "Blooded Hatred" also shines with its excellent sound quality - the 9 tracks have been recorded at the Jailhouse Studios in Horsens, Denmark, with Tommy Hansen (HELLOWEEN, ILDISPOSED, PRETTY MAIDS, BARCODE...), Boy or get lost!!!

Vanya Marinova7.75

CEPHALIC CARNAGE

"Lucid Interval" CD
RELAPSE

"Lucid Interval" is like a journey through the mind of a deranged psycho. In this case the psychos are from Denver, Colorado and terrorize the earth under the name of CEPHALIC CARNAGE since 1996. This CD is their third one (and the second released via Relapse) and again here we have CC's trademark-non-standard Grind Core with elements from everything you can guess. I suppose the strong use of weed is the reason for these guys to create such a weird music: You'll hear raging Grind Core swaths, heavy Death Metal parts, one typical Black Metal song followed by BLACK SABBATH-like riffs with brutal Death growls. There's also one flamenco composition, some industrial passages, etc. Don't expect average Death / Grind, the word here is NON-STANDARD! CC are a totally anti-commercial band, something that's rarely nowadays. They're not afraid to experiment and deserve praises for that. If you feel smart enough to face this musical challenge, go ahead and just listen!

Tsvetan Rachev9.0

INTERNAL SUFFERING

"Chaotic Matrix" CD
DISPLEASED

Obviously Columbia is a country famous not only for Cocka and huge criminality but also for its insanely brutal and hyper extreme Death Metal. Do you like the Mexican DISGORGE? If yes, then you will like these psychos INTERNAL SUFFERING as well. Their style is something similar but more direct and Death Metal influenced. The 11 tracks are real clamour and could easily cause infarct to Arnold Schwarzenegger even! I suppose that many people will say "Ah, that's too brutal for me!" but I know that there are also such folks who never get enough when it comes to brutal music so I would advise them to give a listen to INTERNAL SUFFERING even if hearing the first track only ("The Unfolded Conquest Of The Universe"). But hold on tight you fellas, for what you are going to hear keeps the vehemence of a 100 kiloton Nuclear Bomb! "Chaotic Matrix" is a real nightmarish sonic torture, I endured 4 tracks only... Who has the guts to hear all the 11 ones??

Chavdar Tzachkov6.0

SCENT OF DEATH

"Entangled In Hate" MCD
Self Released

SCENT OF DEATH comes from Spain and delivers fast and technical Death Metal, 100 % the American way. These guys are heavily influenced by the US technical Death bands especially DYING FETUS. SCENT OF DEATH sounds close to the American masters, their music is filled with technical breaks, diverse rhythm, complicated bass lines and deep, throaty vocals. There are 4 brutal tracks and 2 short instrumentals the last of them with the presence of violin. This is brutal Death Metal above the average level and will appeal to you if you like the US Death Metal scene.

For contact: scentofdeath@yahoo.es

Tsvetan Rachev7.0

HOLOCAUSTO CANIBAL

"Sublime Massacre Corporate" CD
SO DIE MUSIC

I remember this Portuguese Core band well for its "Gonorreia Viscera" MCD. The full-length debut of HOLOCAUSTO CANIBAL left me with rather discrepant impressions... In some moments these dudes literally kill with mercilessly bloodfreezing, hyperfast and sick Gore Grind but there are also moments when they sound rather chaotic and even tedious, regardless the plenty of Gore intros in the album. All these knives clinking, chainsaw roaring and female screaming - didn't you realize, folks, that America is found already? What I didn't like as well was the sound itself, it lacks that special thickness surrounding the Gore / Grind acts. Too feeble riffage combined with average drumming. I should say. The last 4 songs are bonus tracks and what they deal with is quite experimental, mixing psycho electronic torture with Grind parts. In short, I can't remember to have heard a wackier album!

Chavdar Tzachkov5.5

GREAT VAST FOREST

"Battalies And Songs For Steel" CD
EVIL HORDE Records

It seems that there are examples of "Barbarian Black Metal" even in Brazil. GREAT VAST FOREST are formed in 1995 by Surgath (voice) and now it's a six-piece band playing some sort of pagan Black Metal. It's obvious that these guys have much work to do if they want to achieve something in the overcrowded (already) Pagan / Black scene. They should find a better story because the production isn't anything special. Also the singing backing vocals sound quite stupid at places and spoil the impression of Surgath's vocals. GREAT VAST FOREST (Does this mean jungle or what?) have talent and maybe they'll put out something better in the future. Contact them at: surgath@matrix.com.br

Tsvetan Rachev5.5

MOONSORROW

"Of Strength And Honour" CD
SPIKEFARM

A great album! So unique, so epic, so majestic - a real piece of extreme art. Created in 1995, this Finnish formation had only one album released till now but, regardless that, their second album "Of Strength And Honour" is brilliantly executed with great musicianship, deep and memorable melodies and a lot of great chorus performances combined with magnificent melodic folk elements. The 6 opuses are extremely diverse and catchy. At places you can hear gentle melancholic moments, ringing acoustic guitars, great atmospheric moment, whereas from time to time MOONSORROW offer straightforward fast Black Metal explosions. The influence of bands like FINNTROLL, BALL-SAGOTH, etc. is obvious and doubtless but have in mind that MOONSORROW have managed to create an original mixture of different styles and influences, which makes "Of Strength And Honour" a really outstanding musical work. You will regret if you miss that album!

Chavdar Tzachkov8.5

REQUIEM

"Arrival" CD
SOUND RIOT

The Finnish band REQUIEM has been formed in 1999 and after 2 demo CD's the label Sound Riot releases their debut album "Arrival". I would characterize the music of REQUIEM as Neo-Classical, Progressive Power Metal. The class of the band's musicians is doubtless, which is also proved by some joint appearances with TO / DIE / FOR and SONATA ARCTICA. "Arrival" is recorded and mixed at Winter Castle Studios in Finland and mastered by Mika Jussila in Finvox Studio (STRATOVARIUS, NIGHTWISH, and AMORPHIS). The album contains 9 compositions

among which I would point out "Whispers", "Forgotten Path", "Halls Of Eternity" and "Liquid Hours". The fact that REQUIEM are such a young band starting with such a strong debut makes me think that in a few years (and albums) the band might become one of the popular names in the style and turn into the next Finnish sensation. Well, these are just hypothetical reflections, but "Arrival" is a fact - a strong album by a strong band!

Atanas Kostadinov9.0

NAPALMED

"Never Mind The MSBR, Here's the..." CD

NAPALMED

What the fuck is this!!!! I really wonder whose sick brains have spawned this "masterpiece"? 70 min of tortuously insane and ugly Noise Core mixed with Ambient and psycho - idiotic and disharmonic, chaotic sounds! This is what I call, a real sonic torment, I couldn't call this "music" because that would be a mockery at MUSIC as a whole! What I am listening to is merely created by lunatics who need serious help. Anyways, I would like to hail all those listeners who will give "Nevermind..." a listen from A to Z - you will deserve your medals, folks! As for me, listening to this CD from the beginning to the end amounts to fate worse than death or the album considered is at least a reliable headache bringer!!

Chavdar Tzachkov1.0

INIQUITY

"Grime" CD
MIGHTY MUSIC

For those of you who don't know INIQUITY, they are one of the most popular Death Metal bands coming from Denmark. "Grime" is their third full-length album (they also have an MCD called "The Hidden Lore") and since I've heard almost everything released by this band, I can say that this is the most brutal and the most technical material recorded by INIQUITY. While their previous albums were in mid-tempo Death Metal, "Grime" surprised me with sometimes lightning fast, brutal Death Metal with numerous Grind attacks! Apart from that, the sound is far better and the production is outstanding and powerful. The 10 tracks are very diverse, quite complex, extremely technical and of course really intense and brutal. The sound is very close to that of ILDISPOSED, maybe because of the bands' same producer - Jacob Hansen. In conclusion, I can stress that INIQUITY are for fans of technical and brutal Death Metal. "Grime" would hardly please people who prefer rough brutality.

Chavdar Tzachkov7.5

ERIC GALES

"That's What I Am" CD
DREAM CATCHER

It was a real pleasure for me to listen to this album. Eric Gales is an event on the music scene - a guitar player with individuality and freshness of ideas and sound, something quite rarely met nowadays. This left-handed Afro-American has been inspired as a child by the great Jimmy Hendrix and has included a cover of his song "Foxy Lady" in "That's What I Am". The album contains 11 more tracks with Edward Cleveland - drums and Paul Taylor - bass. There are many guest-musicians as for example DJ Kimora and Michael Enziener (both of INICUBUS) and the album is produced by Geza X (BLACK FLAG, THE DEAD KENNEDYS and MEREDITH BROOKS). Eric Gales has really succeeded in creating a unique combination of Rhythm & Blues, Gospel and Rock. Listen to the tracks "Hands Writing On The Wall", "So Good If You Could" or "She Shines" and you will be convinced in this guitarist's merits. Anyway, the best features of "That's What I Am" are undoubtedly the modern and original sound, the capable and skillful mixing of musical styles and the perfect studio work. The music of Eric Gales would please a wide audience range - from the real connoisseurs to those who just want to listen to good music. Bravo, Eric!

Atanas Kostadinov9.0

Psychrist 'Embrace Rapture in Disgust' CD
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which will destroy the weak

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'Debauching the Minions'

extreme blackened Death Metal

JAP/Oni split CD

Christian Assault Metal

clashes with an eastern influenced

meditation on the art or war

Psycoptic 'The Isle of Disenchantment' CD

Dark Death Metal in the vien of the

gods Immolation and Incantation

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DIES IRAE

"The Sin War" CD
METAL BLADE

I shall say that I am a total VADER freak so it wasn't that difficult for me to distinguish this band's sound peculiarities even before reading in the info sheet that **DIES IRAE** features two VADER members namely Doc (drums) and Mauer (guitar). The line-up also includes Hiro of **SCEPTIC** and Novy of **BEHEMOTH** and **DEVILYN**. So, as you can see, it wouldn't be a lie to label **DIES IRAE** as an all-star band from the rank of **SIX FEET UNDER** (for example). Anyway, it is not ranking but music that really matters, and in this case it is highly efficient, ferociously technical, and extremely energetic. Death Metal performed with a great deal of passion and angst. The 10 smashing songs have been recorded at Hertz Studio in Bielsk, Poland (has anybody heard of Inferior Death Metal studios in Poland?) so be sure of the thickness and bloodfreezing clarity of the album sound! I could feel that the vocal parts are more severe and throaty in comparison to those on the previous CD and once again Hiro's solos delight the fans' ears. Well, some may view **DIES IRAE** as a VADER clone but I couldn't care less. To me, **"The Sin War"** is a perfect album from perfect musicians - buy or die!

Chavdar Tzackov

8,5

CENTURION

"Non Plus Ultra" CD
SCARLET

"Non Plus Ultra" is the third album of the Italians **CENTURION**. I expected this album with great interest since I liked their previous CD **"Hyper Martyrium"** a lot for its energy and straightforwardness. Unfortunately, the new album of this Power-Thrash Metal band is weaker than its predecessor in every aspect - sound, originality and aggressiveness. Just don't get me wrong - **"Non Plus Ultra"** is not a bad album but does not live up to what is expected from a band of **CENTURION**'s merit. The tracks in the new album are quite similar to each other, especially the vocal parts which are really irritating at places. An exception to that remark is **"Roma Caput Mundi"** - perhaps the best song in the album. The other songs I would distinguish are **"Maximum Golgotha"** and **"Jus Prime Noctis"**. I frankly hope that the step backwards **CENTURION** have made will be compensated by their next album. And those of you who despise **"Non Plus Ultra"** - I recommend to hear **"Hyper Martyrium"**.

Alanas Kostadinov

6,0

CONTRASTIC

"Contrastic" CD
SHINJO

If I had noticed this very CD in a music shop I would have hardly remained intrigued because of the album cover itself - it looks like being drawn by a child and you could never suppose that a drawing like this would be intended for a release referred to a very brutal form of Metal. When I gave **CONTRASTIC** a listen eventually this band almost did me in... Awesome, exclusively original and innovative Death / Grind mixed with a lot of untypical styles! Apparently these guys' main goal has been to escape from the clichés in the genre and create really original music instead. And the routine which the tracks in the album are performed with is quite logic as the band considered exists for 10 years already. Damn it, I truly enjoyed this juxtaposing of Death / Grind sounds with Jazz and Funk elements + a lot of samples. In one of the songs you could even distinguish a classical piano tunes against the whole grinding background - a combination I have never heard before! In brief, the **"Contrastic"** CD is really cool for listening and entrances totally with its unpredictability. A must-have for all fans into experimental stuff!

Chavdar Tzackov

8,0

DEPRESSION / HAEMORRHAGE

"Split CD"
CUDGEL AGENCY

Totally Underground split including the German followers of the mighty ROT and one of the most famous Metal bands in Spain namely the Gore / Grind freaks **HAEMORRHAGE**. What **DEPRESSION** deals with stylewise is very simple and direct oldschool Grind Core. The vocals expose the same old schizoidness expressed in throaty malignance and deranging shrieks. Riffs are simple in construction (in moments TOO simple) and straightforward so at least there ain't no danger for the listener to be exhausted by pretentious performances. In other words, **DEPRESSION**'s music would fit headbangers best and even if the band shines not with virtuoso performances, its material will certainly appeal to all ROT / old NAPALM DEATH fans. As for **HAEMORRHAGE**, they do not show up with new stuff but with 11 tracks from the gig for their 10th anniversary. What I didn't like here was the very low sound - I had to amplify the volume almost to the maximum in order to hear something! Otherwise, the guys seem to be cool as live performers. Save some of their classics, **HAEMORRHAGE** have also played covers of **CARCASS**, **REGURGITATE** and **IMPETIGO**. A real treasure for every devoted fan of this band!

Chavdar Tzackov

6,0

HATE

"Holy Dead Trinity" CD
WHM

The serial Brutal Death Metal sensation coming from Poland! Damn, it seems that this country will never die when it comes to raising really good bands. **"Holy Dead Trinity"** is a very promising debut that shows the musicians' enviable skill. Yet one could discern the nihilism which the 14 tracks are performed with. The style is Black Death Metal with influences from **DEICIDE** and **VADER** and **MORBID ANGEL** of course. I suppose this is my thousandth encounter with such a blistering production and sound as powerful as a nuclear strike created by a Polish band. It is obvious that the Death Metal genre is adored by many people in Poland and I guess that explains the plenty of awesome bands and high class studios in this country. I believe that **HATE**'s hyper blasting brutal Death Metal armed with a skilful technical flair and creative command will establish them amongst the genre's elite.

Chavdar Tzackov

8,5

INTO THE GORE

"Pain Must Be Amplified" CD
METAL AGE Productions

I have been noticing Greece's huge interest in more brutal kind of Metal lately. This country have never lacked qualitative bands the majority of which directed to the Dark, Black & Thrash Metal genres. INTO THE GORE have chosen playing more extreme kind of Metal namely rapid and

brutal Death / Grind. Unfortunately, **"Pain Must Be Amplified"** disappointed me. I am accustomed to hear only high class bands from Greece but, alas, this doesn't go for INTO THE GORE. I could feel the guys' desire of creating a real brutal masterpiece but what the listener will realize eventually will be that mediocre musicians have spawned mediocre ideas in the most chaotic possible way. And these vocals a la BRUTAL TRUTH literally make me sick in moments! Especially the shrieky parts - total braincells killer! The production could be called average if it was about a promo or a demo recording; the guitar blend sounds rather irrelevant for extreme Death / Grind. It is solely the drums that are worth hearing. And this is not enough, is it? THE INTO THE GORE team needs to work harder in order to achieve better results and, last but not least, the guys need a reliable studio rather than computers...

Chavdar Tzackov

5,0

APOSTASIA

"Martyrs Of God" CD
ADPOCERE

Created in August 1999 in Orleans, France, this band now offers us its debut CD dealing with the life and death of Anthea during the 13th century at time of enquiry... Musicwise **APOSTASIA** is another representative of the sympho-Black Metal current. I have been feeling sick of listening to such acts lately but I shall admit that these French guys definitely did great job for a debut album! **"Martyrs Of God"** is totally devoid of all that pomposity and pathetic moods usually surrounding today's Black Metal outfits as a whole. The 8 tracks on this CD literally engross for their plainness and the rimblessness they are performed with! Yet I cannot help liking **APOSTASIA** for succeeding to create the (certainly) desired dark atmosphere. Apparently, there has still remained something to extract from the mines of Black Metal!

Vanya Marinova

7,25

PHOBIA

"Serenity Through Pain" CD
DEATHOMIT

Wow, this reunion was a great pleasure for me. I know this band for their debut **"Return To Desolation"** (1993) that was released via Relapse. It was a killer piece of hyper catchy Death / Grind and I still have this record which belongs to the "golden section" of my CD collection. Now, 9 years after their debut release, the band decided to gather up again and show the world their perfect form regardless the years gone... **"Serenity Through Pain"** is a great album that will appeal mainly to people who still mourn the BRUTAL TRUTH break-up. **PHOBIA** are utter headbangers for their awesome Grind / Hard / Crust Core. The CD is not devoid of some softer moments that will allow you to take a rest for a while before being swept on your lightning fast sonic journey again. I almost shifted in my parts while listening to the 23 tracks on **"Serenity Through Pain"** - they are a stunning combo of Grind influences referring both to the present days and the early 90's. **PHOBIA** create a wall of sound that crushes the majority of the Grind Core bands in the scene. I can't remember for how long time I haven't seen such bloodboiling albums on the market... Do not hesitate to get this Grind masterpiece, the pleasure of listening to it is 100 % guaranteed!

Chavdar Tzackov

8,0

OSH

"Red Universe" CD
Self Released

This German outfit has been existing since 1992 and has a demo CD plus 2 releases behind so far including **"Red Universe"**. What **OSH** deals with is Hard Core basically plus some Rock and Metal shades. The album tracks shine with their remarkably vivid and versatile constructions, apparently these dudes do not suffer of lack of original ideas. Soundwise, **"Red Universe"** brought me the impression that the CD has been recorded at a garage and I don't think it would be bad in case it turns out true (even I doubt so). On the contrary, this contributes even more to the album's uniquely jolly "club" atmosphere that in general could be achieved only by loud music, lots of beers and clouds of cigarette smoke in the air... In moments **OSH** remind me of **ONKEL TOM** even though **OSH**'s music has nothing to do with Tom Angel Ripper's project at all - I guess it is something in Stefan Olsson's vocals. What I enjoyed most was the incredibly diverse drumming and the catchy acoustic passages woven here and there.

Web: <http://www.osh-metal.de>

Vanya Marinova

6,75

NILE

"In Their Darkened Shrines" CD
RELAPSE

Who said that Death Metal is not and cannot be a real piece of high class art? Well, in case there are people who keep on thinking so, I would advise them to hear **NILE** - a band dealing with such superior aspects in music that it just can no longer be classified with the pure and simple "Death Metal"! As soon as leaving the Underground pits behind, **NILE** became one of the most original extreme Metal bands for that unique combination of ferocious and straightforward-Death Metal with sounds from the Middle East, especially elements of the mysterious Egyptian traditions from before 3000 years... That's why their music sounds so majestic, so epic and mysterious. **"In Their Darkened Shrines"** is remarkably noticeable for the plenty of diverse ideas and the incredible songwriting skills of **NILE**'s mastermind Karl Sanders. This is an album which you hardly will hear from another band. Apparently, the tracks on **"In Their Darkened Shrines"** are results of hard work and desire for playing music, this is an album that you can listen to a hundred times and keep on distinguishing new elements! Remarkably rich work, maybe the peak of the band so far. Tracks like the 15 minute (four parts) **"In Their Darkened Shrines"** and the 11 minute song **"Unas Slayer Of The Gods"** are just stunning for their preciseness and deep atmosphere achieved by the use of various instruments like Baglama Saz, Armenian Pipe and tambura juxtaposed against the ambient harmony feedback sustains. Monk changings, Lunar Tempura, Turkish Gong, etc. No words could be found when it comes to describing this CD, you must submerge into this majestic amalgam of sounds in order to taste Perfection!

Chavdar Tzackov

9,5

SADISTIK EXEKUTION

"Fukk" CD
OSMOSE

Although I am aware of this Australian band for years, **"Fukk"** is the first ever release which I am giving a thorough listen to. It is merely my lack of interest that "helped" me learn nothing about **SADISTIK EXEKUTION** as yet. Whatever, to the "Fukk" subject. Ummhm, this CD left me filled with complicated impressions... On the one hand, I liked these 12 Death / Black Metal tracks for their morose spontaneity and obscure, haunting chants inserted here and there, and found them rather monotonous on the other. Eventually, the feeling that I have been given the wrong cup of tea preponderated. Heh, these dudes truly "hate" their own fans' since they offer a release in comparison to which a tornado would be felt like a zephyran whiff... Watch your houses!

Vanya Marinova

6,75

JESUS ANAL PENETRATION / ONI

"Split CD"
DEAD BY DAWN Records

Dead By Dawn Records is a sub-division of Dissident Records - one of the most famous Australian Underground labels and distributors. This split features 2 young and still inexperienced Australian Death Metal bands which, even though shining not with anything special, try to nail you down with rather brutal kind of Metal as far as possible with their stage of adroitness and technical means. JAP define themselves as a band playing Anti-Christian Assault Metal but the truth is that these dudes accentuate upon rough brutal Death Metal with some Grind parts. Nothing new under the sun but JAP's 5 tracks will most probably leave less choosy fans satisfied. The songs considered offer an alteration of good speedy attacks and more chaotic moments - obviously the band is still in process of searching. The other act (**ONI**) sounds more decent. These Australians assail with brutal Death Metal as well but are influenced from USA's death Metal to a greater extent. **ONI**'s 5 tracks are more chaotic and not that fast - I doubt if I will remember them tomorrow. Still, **ONI** are a little bit more technical than JAP and this that they don't rely on primitive brutality only is a good sign! Definitely the second band in this split CD has more huge potential for creating something really valuable. Not without hard work though!

Chavdar Tzackov

5,5

SIRENS

"Global Killers" CD

I am really, really sorry for wasting my time in listening to such a weak album! I was cunningly misled by the awesome layout and I got what??? Extremely bad sound!!! Vocals... I have never thought I would hear a band with such an inferior frontman - I could feel this let alone a connoisseur! Well, I couldn't say that **SIRENS** vocalist and musicians are utterly devoid of talent but it is unacceptable for me how (certainly) self-respecting band members could offer such a pathetic release on the Heavy Metal market! It is a pity that I could distinguish some ideas being as much great as awfully expressed... I guess, **"Free Your Mind"** is the band's best song even though I have remarks for it as well. And this cover version of A-HA's **"Take On Me"** - the funniest thing I have heard lately!!! If you succeed to listen to both the CDs from A to Z you will either have nerves of steel or will be utterly ignorant musically. I am not rating **SIRENS** with 0 just because they have tried to do something after all...

Alanas Kostadinov

1,0

NECRONOM

"A Darkening Path" MCD
WINTERTHORN

This band is fucking boring, for me at least!!! What I expected to hear was a piece of cool US Death Metal but I was wrong, totally wrong! **NECRONOM**'s style turned out Atmospheric Ritualistic Gloomy Dark Metal with a lot of Black Metal guitar riffs and very dark atmosphere. Probably there are people who will like this band but I found its 5 songs utterly boring. I just felt the necessity of hearing something more fresh and dynamic, **NECRONOM** is definitely not my piece of cake. Don't get me wrong, I am simply not into such kind of Metal but fans into mid-tempo Dark Black Metal with some synth backgrounds will like **NECRONOM** for sure. A matter of taste!

Chavdar Tzackov

5,0

MORIFADE

"Imaginarium" CD
HAMMERHEART

By hearing the very first riffs on the album you realize that **MORIFADE** is a very serious band! And how not, since these Swedish guys have recorded their album at Andy La Roque's Los Angeles Studio... What **"Imaginarium"** offers is 11 tracks of epically symphonic Power Metal laced with Progressive elements and there ain't no any trace of pomposity here. I believe **MORIFADE** have found their niche in today's scene! What I could add as a plus for this outfit is their peculiarity in sound that makes success and recognition 100 % guaranteed! The songs that impressed me most were **"Lost Within A Shade"**, **"Nevermore"**, **"The Enemy Within"**, **"Reborn"** and, above them all, **"Whispering Voices"**. In short, this is a very strong album regardless its impenitence and it will delight the ears of many Heavy Metal fans. I think that it is more than obligatory to get you acquainted with **MORIFADE**'s line - up: Stefan Peterson (vocals), Jesper Johansson (electric and acoustic guitars), Robin Anell (electric guitars), Frederik Eriksson (keyboards), Henrik Weimeld (bass) and Kim Anell (drums).

Alanas Kostadinov

8,0

ORGAN HARVEST

"Bowels Waltz" CD
DEADSN

My friend Jean Francois has released the album of a really sick and ultra brutal Gutthral Death Grind band. Yes, these maniacs have obviously some mental problems because they are like psychos who have just been set free from the psychiatry. To some extent **ORGAN HARVEST** remind me of **KATACLYSM**'s earlier classics basically for their chaotic hyper fast Grind parts and monstrous growls. The sound is very good and everything is well balanced. Well, I think the guitar parts could have been a little bit louder but still, **"Bowels Waltz"** is ok soundwise as a whole. I don't know if this is **ORGAN HARVEST**'s debut, I haven't heard

them before, but I dare state that this CD sounds more than good! The guys stake on sheer brutality and also alternate slower passages with immortally grinding attacks that could make a more sensitive listener really sick! So be careful with this band for its music is not for all! But if you are seekers of most brutal Metal sounds then **ORGAN HARVEST** is what you need!

Chavdar Tzackov

6,5

SERIM

"Kill War Chaos" CD
CUDGEL AGENCY

I don't think I'll remember this too long. The second album of **SERIM** is nothing more than another ordinary Death / Black Metal release. **SERIM** are obviously influenced from **AMON AMARTH**, **GOD DETHRONED** and hundreds of bands like so the result doesn't impress me. I have the feeling that I've already heard too much of those screaming and rifting before. **SERIM** exist since 1993 and I expected something more at least in musical aspect. Hear this for yourself but I think that **"Kill War Chaos"** is just a waste of time!

Tsvetan Rachev

5,0

VICTIM

"Cocktail Of Brutality / Faces Of Death" CD
EQUIPSE

Ha, not bad!!! This German band was unknown to me but their CD was a cool surprise anyway because it is not everyday when I come across bands from Germany playing really qualitative and brutal Death Metal. The material has been recorded in Czech Republic - yet another proof for the availability of awesome Metal studios in this country! The style of **VICTIM** is very influenced from the US Death Metal school. I could feel "traces" of (old) **DEATH**, **CANNIBAL CORPSE** (Benjamin's growls strongly reminded me of Chris Barnes' on **"Butcher Of Birth"**) and the like. The sound is very dense and heavy, the rhythm section works like a massive hammer. I could also distinguish something from the hellish atmosphere of **INCANTATION**. I liked **VICTIM** enormously for their rapidity that actually dominates in all of the 17 tracks and this, in turn, reminds me of **SUFFOCATION** to a great extent. With all these comparisons I am far from calling **VICTIM** copycats however! Contrariwise, these German guys expose rather good ideas, most tracks are skilfully composed and are not just another bunch of sheer brutality. There are of course a lot of lightning fast moments but you can also hear some slow & majestic ones and a lot of double-bass drumming. A very good band, I liked them a lot!

Chavdar Tzackov

7,0

DAYLIGHT DIES

"No Reply" CD
RELAPSE

North Carolina's **DAYLIGHT DIES** are the first Doom Metal band that I've seen to be released by Relapse. The first thing which comes to your mind while you're listening to this CD is the resemblance with **KATATONIA** and the older works of **ANATHEMA**. **DAYLIGHT DIES** have tried to capture their dark emotions in eight long songs that become a little boring at the end of the CD. Some of the songs are too predictable and I can't escape from the feeling that I've already heard those melodies somewhere in the classic albums of the Doom Metal masters. **DD**'s vocalist possesses impressive voice and can speak and scream equally well - his voice is closer to **ANATHEMA**'s Vincent Cavanagh. If you're fans of **NOVEMBRE**, **KATATONIA**, etc., this band will probably appeal to you. **"No Reply"** is about average beyond any doubt!

Tsvetan Rachev

7,5

PIG DESTROYER

"Powder In The Yard" CD
RELAPSE

Another horde of deranged Grind Core psychos from Relapse. This time the "heroes" are from Virginia and they exist since 1997. By combining old school Grind Core with Hard / Crust Core elements this trio have succeeded to create veriginously noisy and psychotic songs with some lacking fast and crazy drum attacks. The vocalist's screams are like from a guy belonging to the psychiatry contingent who is trying to release himself from his strait-jacket. What I liked here was the unpredictability of the track constructions achieved by the constant alternation of various moments ranging from mid tempo passages through insane chaotic ones to derangingly hyper fast Grind attacks. This band creates really insane music that stands beyond all rules or clichés; as a result of this **PIG DESTROYER** sounds really innovative in some moments but also really chaotic in others. The guys sensibly fear not experiment-

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ing and this, in my opinion, is not that frequently met in today's Grind Core bands... 'Prowler In The Yard' is certainly not a commercial album and it will hardly please most people but I'm sure there are a lot of open-minded freaks in search of exactly such kind of CDs. So go out and find this paragon of sonic madness!

Chavdar Tzakov.....6,5

SIKFUK

Gore Delicious / CD
UNITED CULTURAL

Total Gore / Grind madness delivered by these psychos united under the name of SIKFUK. If you like distorted grunts, lightning fast blastbeats and 'tasty' lyrics, 'Gore Delicious' is what you need. An interesting fact is that the bass isn't distorted and it's unusual for most bands of that type - it sounds natural and this makes the sound even heavier. Every song starts with intro taken from different 'gory' movies. Gore freaks, don't miss SIKFUK and their delicious Gore Metal!

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,0

COCK AND BALL TORTURE

Sadochismo / CD
ABLATED Records

What impressed me in 'Sadochismo' was its slowness in comparison to the previous albums of CBT. Actually there are no Grind parts, there are some fast moments but they are in a Grind. Most of the 15 tracks are in a slow or mid-tempo, which is a little bit strange for a Gore Grind band, and this encounters the vocal parts that are insane enough to change any non Grind Core fan. The guys have used a very bestial combination of harmonizers and the result is... the most gory and deep inhuman growls that I have ever heard. The guitars are low-tuned and thus contribute to that bloodfreezingly sepulchral atmosphere of the release itself... a pure nightmare weaver! I remember last year's sudden increase of the (mass) interest in this band, their records were selling very well, the band had also strong live appearances and they also are quite devoted to what they do. 'Sadochismo' is a very good piece of Gore Metal but still I miss those vehement Grind eruptions on 'Opus(sy) VI', their previous album.

Chavdar Tzakov.....7,5

THE ENCHANTED

Trust In Death And Rebirth / CD
SINISTER REALM

I'm glad to see that the UK Underground is rising again after its glorious times in the beginning of the 90's. THE ENCHANTED are formed in 1997 in Bradford and this is their debut released by their own label Sinister Realm. This band offers qualitative Death Metal mixed with some Thrash and Black Metal as well. THE ENCHANTED are influenced from the Swedish Death / Black Metal school and it can be felt in many songs from that album. The acoustic passages and the melodious riffing are regularly met in the albums of almost all bands from Sweden, right? Well, you have it on this CD too but the guys have managed to put their own touch in this music (although at places it sounds too Scandinavian) and to create songs that stay in your mind long time after the first listening. The sound production is faultless, every instrument can be heard clearly. Definitely this CD will appeal to most Death Metal freaks, especially those who like the old Swedish cult bands. For contact: enchanted@sinisterweb.co.uk

Tsvetan Rachev.....7,5

GRIFFIN

The Shadow / CD
SEASON OF MIST

Norway's GRIFFIN is founded in 1998 as a just-for-fun Heavy Metal project by ATRIX, BLOODTHORN and DARK AGES members. Little by little things grow serious though, so after the 'Conquers the World' demo the guys sign with the French label Season Of Mist. Then the 'Wasteland Serenades' debut follows as well as a European tour with MAYHEM as headliners. Anyway, let's focus on GRIFFIN's new CD... Thus, the people standing behind 'The Shadowside' are as follows: Tommy Sebastian (vocals), Marius Karlsen (drums), Marcus Silver (lead and rhythm guitars), Jonny Wangenberg (bass) and Kai Nergaard (rhythm and solo guitars). The album itself contains 12 tracks of modern Heavy Metal. The work in studio and the musicians' ideas definitely refer GRIFFIN out of the Underground bands circle. Not a bad release but nothing special to be remembered with either. All the 12 songs do not differ with anything from one another. Just another average album...

Atanas Kostadinov.....6,5

SQUASH BOWELS

Mass Rotting - The Mass Sickness / CD
OSCEANE

Have you heard of the Polish city Bialystok? Well, this city is the hometown of two of the sickest bands in the world. Unfortunately the one (DEAD INFECTION) does not exist anymore, it broke up years ago and even though I heard say that they are gathering again, nothing is officially confirmed so far... Anyway, this review concerns the second band namely SQUASH BOWELS. This act exists since 1994 and has plenty of split MC's, EP's and CD's so far plus one full length album, 'Mass Rotting - The Mass Sickness' is their second CD and it is very important for the band because the original members are back and stronger! If you love the old school gory Grind this is a band for you. The style is not like on their first CD, 'Tnyrbal', here the guys rely on more traditional forms of extreme gore Metal, more direct and hyper brutal. If you like ultra guttural vocals, corrosive fast drums and pounding bass erosion then the 15 tracks will be a real pleasure for you. Definitely one of the most brutal and sickest band on today's Polish Underground scene. Thanks to the good studio (Hertz Studio) the sound is very powerful and outstanding and contributes even more to the pleasure of listening to this album. In case you're into such kind of Metal, of course! So try SQUASH BOWELS if you dare!!

Chavdar Tzakov.....7,0

KRIEG

Deconstruction Ritual / CD
RED STREAM

'Audible torture with influences from the forgotten Black Metal Scene' - yeah, I am apt of agreeing with this description of KRIEG's music. 'Deconstruction Ritual' truly has caught something from the severe, unpolished atmosphere intrinsic to Norway's Black Metal bands referred to the first half of the 90's but at the same time the CD from this North American outfit literally grinds down with its monotony! The songs are hyper fast and defiantly fierce, yes, but this is not enough, it seems... At least the album layout shines with its black and white imprudentness and displays clear the guys' contempt for 'the need of gimmick and nude sluts on the album covers'. I stand for this myself!

Vanya Marinova.....5,5

SATANIC SLAUGHTER

The Early Years: Dawn Of Darkness / CD
NECROPOLIS

What we've got here is the first two releases of SATANIC SLAUGHTER put on one CD by their ex-label Necropolis. The eponymous debut and the second album 'Land Of The Unholy Souls' are both recorded in the classic line-up of Mique, Richard Corpe, Toxine, Jensen (all of WITCHERY now) and the sole remaining member today... Zephon Dark. The first album is very raw Black / Thrash Metal with primitive production and boring songs. 'Land Of The Unholy Souls' is a bit better, putting some guitar riffs a la DARKTHRONE into the picture. I can positively state that if you like primitive Black Metal, you'd better check out the latest DARKTHRONE album instead of buying this CD.

Stoyan Tzovnev.....4,5

MALEVOLENT CREATION

The Will To Kill / CD
ARCTIC MUSIC GROUP

Oh, I'm hypnotized. Yeah, really... after I heard this album I felt smashed by the huge aggression and energy gathered in the 11 compositions. What an album... the triumph of blistering Death Metal! Maybe one of the best works of MALEVOLENT CREATION! After some line-up changes, the band has returned with an amalgam of ultra fast rumbling drumming - the guy behind the drum kit Justin Di Pinto is like an alien. Actually, I read in the info sheet that he has been later replaced by Ariel Alvarado. Anyway, the fact is that the drums are lightning-fast, ferocious, very diverse and perfectly recorded. I also liked the solid Thrash elements in the vein of old SLAYER, which are quite well incorporated in the typical MALEVOLENT CREATION sound. All the 11 songs are perfectly performed, with a very heavy rhythm section, good classic Death Metal vocals and speedy guitar riffs. This is one of the best albums not only for 2002 but for the whole decade. It would be really stupid if you don't get this masterpiece... believe me! It will kick you in the ass with its ultra heavy and massive sound!

Chavdar Tzakov.....9,0

KAOS RISING

Welcome To The Violence / CD
JETSPEED

From the very beginning this album nails you down with ponderous and hostile Death Metal! The 10 tracks on this CD are far from rapid but this, in my opinion, is well compensated by dense riffing and Casey's sinister growls. As if KAOS RISING's longplayer reminds me of the classics GRAVE a little... Whatever, check out 'Welcome to the Violence' in case you are a devoted fan of relentlessly saturnine Death Metal acts.

Web: <http://www.kaosrising.com>

Vanya Marinova.....7,0

IMMOLATION

Unholy Cult / CD
LISTENABLE

What a stupid thing Metal Blade have done by losing one of their best Death Metal bands! IMMOLATION's first album for Listenable Records is, I dare say, their best! I have never been a diehard fan of IMMOLATION, but 'Unholy Cult' really struck me with its gory, musician-ship and the band's trademark Death Metal: haunting harmonies, chaotic guitar riffs, bone-breaking rhythm section... all that taken to a higher level! It is always hard to create your own original style, especially in Death Metal, but IMMOLATION are impossible to be mistaken. These guys know how to play their instruments. Moreover, they know how to enchant the listener with their music. 'Unholy Cult' is among the best Death Metal albums this year! Death Metal is back!

Stoyan Tzovnev.....9,5

HOLOCAUST

Demonic Bible / MCD
HECATOMBE Records

I don't remember how many bands named HOLOCAUST I've met... it seems this is the 3rd or the 4th one. Anyway, here is the Spanish HOLOCAUST with their ultra brutal Death / Grind. Nothing sensational I think but at least the quartet of Almeria have put some considerable effort so that the 4 tracks would be not monotonous and strike fear and disgust in every weak soul. The style is US Brutal Death with a lot of Grind attacks: something similar to SUFFOCATION, INTERNAL BLEEDING, PYROX... If you like bestial, guttural vocals, megaton bass performances and furious tempos, then 'Demonic Bible' will live up to your expectations. The point

is: what distinguishes this band from the thousands of formations like this? It is hard for me to answer, but you can try.

Chavdar Tzakov.....6,0

HUMAN ERROR / LYCANTHROPY

Split CD
ECLIPSE Records

Do you like Grind Core? If yes, I have something for you here. The already legendary Japanese indie label Eclipse (hi, Hitoshi!) will once again please you with another portion of fierce, uncompromising Grind... only for real maniacs. HUMAN ERROR are from Hungary and their style is a mixture of Crust / Grind Core and Punk. The sound is not clear and it lacks power but the band is fucking fast. Familiar, simple Punk / Grind riffs and screaming vocals. The Czechs LYCANTHROPY are heavier, their style is a mixture of Gore Grind and Crust Core. Their sound is much better as is the production, yet they use several different types of vocals. Even though shining not with anything that specific in my opinion, LYCANTHROPY are the better band in this split CD.

Chavdar Tzakov.....6,5

SATANIC SLAUGHTER

Banished To The Underworld / CD
BLACKSUN

After the rest of the band left to form WITCHERY, Zephon Dark continues with SATANIC SLAUGHTER and the new album is already a fact. The new label Black Sun has signed a great deal, since 'Banished To The Underworld' is the best album in the history of SATANIC SLAUGHTER. I must admit that I haven't expected such a good album from these guys! 'Banished...' contains 9 new compositions and a new version of 'One Night In Hell'. This is excellent Death / Black Metal reminding me of DISSECTION and NECROPOLIS. There is plenty of melody as well as a lot of aggression here and this makes the album interesting from the beginning to the end. SATANIC SLAUGHTER are back! All fans of DARKTHRONE and DISSECTION, check this out!

Stoyan Tzovnev.....8,0

AVULSED

Yearning For The Grotesque / CD
AVANTGARDE MUSIC

Finally the latest (and long expected) album of Spain's best Death Metal band is in my hands too! This CD is more special because AVULSED signed a contract with Avantgarde so 'Yearning For The Grotesque' is the band's first album released via this famous label. Once more Dave Rotten & co have used the German Spacecab Studio for recording their newest tracks (save ANCIENT RITES I haven't heard of any other band that has recorded there...). Good decision, especially if you think of all those bands with one and the same sound achieved in any of the numerous Swedish studios... Anyway, the guys from AVULSED have recorded 10 tracks of very emotional, brutal yet not less catchy Death Metal - incredibly diverse and precisely composed and performed. In comparison to the previous album 'Yearning For The Grotesque' is a bit more brutal... Dave Rotten's vocals are more guttural and the overall sound is more rough and powerful. Some of the tracks are fast and straightforward (like, for example, 'Sick, Sick Sex'), other are rather emotional and majestic. I could feel a sensible BOLT THROWER influence, especially in 'Fetters of Marriage' - a stunning composition with a very emotional beginning followed by powerfully savage tempo. I must note that all the tracks on this CD are equally hard while from the previous album the songs that really impressed me were like 3 or 4... If melodiousness is what you are looking for, you will have the pleasure of hearing the same remarkable guitar solos - a trade mark of the band! The CD layout is a scorching, Bjorn Gosses' incredible gory graphics definitely deserves applause! Well, how couldn't you like such a release, eh?? Half year, when something is done with a great deal of skill and desire, success is 100 % guaranteed and AVULSED's new album is the perfect proof for that!

Chavdar Tzakov.....8,5

KABBAL

Synthetically Revived / CD
DIAMOND Productions

After three demos, the French Death Metallers KABBAL are here with their debut CD. From the very first seconds of the opening track it becomes obvious that the guys have listened to MORBID ANGEL a lot. I should note here that KABBAL have performed quite well their music and recorded it professionally. This CD will surely please all fans of MORBID ANGEL but it has one great disadvantage. The music in 'Synthetically

Revived' is a complete copy of MORBID ANGEL, circa 'Blessed Are The Sick' and 'Covenant'. The riffs are the same, the song structures are the same and even the vocals are almost identical to David Vincent's. I just cannot understand why should I listen to 'Synthetically Revived' and not 'Covenant' instead?!

Stoyan Tzovnev.....6,0

DRILLER KILLER

Cold, Cheap And Disconnected / CD
OSMOSE

One of my fave Swedish bands is back! This is the 6th album in their 9-year history and with the very first track 'Gotta Get A God' it becomes clear that a real dose of energetic Crust Metal expects me. Yes, I was right... the 10 tracks were over in no time leaving me really pleased but still asking for more. I cannot tell precisely, but I think I listened to this album for almost a week and it didn't get me bored... there is so much vitality and energy in it that obssess the listener. 'Cold, Cheap And Disconnected' is an album that kicks you in the balls and in the ass simultaneously... a paranoic mixture of crazy, fast tempo, dissonant chords and catchy choruses. When you listen to this album it is hard to remain passive... this whole combination of Crust Core, Punk and Metal is so intense and obsessive that one starts feeling desirous to break walls with his / her head! Yet another masterpiece which will never leave my collection!

Chavdar Tzakov.....9,0

URSHURARK

Architecture Of Perfect Damnation / CD
BUTCHERY MUSIC

With the beautifully composed classical introducing piece 'Triumphphant In Pandemonium' Italy's URSHURARK are to leave you totally vulnerable by entrancing you with euphoric strings and awesome atmosphere until the fucking fast assault of 'Hallucinated Messiah' meant to leave you flat on your face. URSHURARK play Black Metal at its best when it comes to the extreme and experimenting. The musicians easily mix classical music with grinding guitars and rapid 'freaky' drumming, all that accompanying primarily Luca's awesome vocals. 'Excellent Art Of Cruelty' sounds similar to AT THE GATES and 'At the Place of Moloch' and has also some EMPEROR influences but still this couldn't be a reliable clue of what this Italian act is exactly like because URSHURARK are varied and talented musicians enough to be able to cross the boundaries of Black / Death / Thrash Metal and Dark Wave outstandingly. The classical moments contribute a lot to the overall dark picture of the album and would suit perfectly any horror movie soundtrack - 'Decade of the Tyrant' is my doubtless favourite. 'Architecture Of Perfect Damnation' mirrors the band's progressiveness and openness. The inserted excerpts from 'Hellraiser' (this happens to be my all-time favourite horror piece) is an additional bonus and fits the CD perfectly. The tracks 'Solar - Execution - Eclipse' and 'A Puzzle of Flesh' (over 10 min long each) are psychotic epics in every sense of the word. The final track 'Antichrist Maniac' sounds very disturbing and is the best chosen song to mark the 'Architecture Of Damnation' ending. Doubtlessly URSHURARK is an amazing band to look out for. The future of Black Metal seems to be more promising than ever! The Horse

.....10

THYRANE / THE DEAD BEGINNERS

Split CD
SPIKEFARM

Well, this split CD includes some hard to find records of two Finnish Black Metal bands. The part of THYRANE is actually their debut demo 'Black Harmony', recorded back in 1996 at Tico-Tico Studio. This demo has contributed a lot to the band's first ever contract with Finland's Woodcut Records. The sound quality is very good for a demo recording, I have heard a lot of albums with much worse sound. Anyway, THYRANE obviously stake on fast Black Metal backgrounded by Atmospheric synths. This very combination is used in large numbers, you know, but still I couldn't deny that THYRANE is a high quality band demonstrating a great deal of skill musicianship and will certainly appeal to the majority of the Black Metal fans. If you like hyper fast Satanic Black Metal with plenty of well performed keyboard moments then you have to try this act. The other band in the split is in fact the well known formation AUTUMN VERSES (formed back in 1992) but, beat me if I know why, the guys have decided to change their band's name to THE DEAD BEGINNERS. So, after being ripped off by the (currently defunct) German label Solistium that was expected to release their two albums respectively since 1999 and 2000, it became Spikefarm's task to release the CDs

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considered. Nevertheless, the ultimate decision turned out releasing a full-length CD ("Sinner's Rebellion") and the rest of the material to be included in this split. Thus, THE DEAD BEGINNERS' style is innovative Dark / Black Metal - definitely this band deals with more complicated forms of music and shows more interesting ideas. The tracks are more varied and original than THYRANE's and the main contribution to this is the unique synth melodies and the progressive songwriting manner. If you are into symphonic Black Metal this band might become some of your favourite!!

REGURGITATE
"Hatfield Vengeance" MCD
RELAPSE
 Reviewing REGURGITATE's album was a serious challenge!! Every Grind Core fan knows that this band is a legend in this genre. REGURGITATE have tons of releases and several splits with acts such as FLESHLESS or GORE BEYOND NECROPSY... But this MCD is total destruction to me! Apocalyptic Grind Core with great sound, I think this is release number one!! If you are into music like that, get *"Hatfield Vengeance"* NOW!! The Horse

ETERNAL TEARS OF SORROW
"A Virgin And A Whore" CD
SINEFARM

Another very strong release via the Finnish label Spinefarm. I had never listened to ETS before but now I could say that I didn't need much time to be persuaded of the musicians' great skills. Especially the charismatic keyboardist Pasi Hiltula who has succeeded in creating such melodies that would delight the ear of each connoisseur. A Virgin And A Whore is a very rich and diverse album. The music is melodic and beautiful Black / Death Metal with some nice Gothic atmosphere in some of the songs. The 9 tracks are very catchy and intelligently composed. Mid-tempo moments prevail and fast passages are seldom met here so it is obvious that ETS accentuate upon more melodic and slower Metal plus other genres interwoven. In some moments the band reminds of CHILDREN OF BODOM, in other you could hear more Atmospheric Black Metal moving on to emotive Gothic moods even, whereas the last 3 tracks offer the sound typical to classic Heavy Metal. The 9 compositions are recorded at the cult Tico-Tico Studio so it is hardly necessary to write about the production of A Virgin And A Whore! I would like to emphasize in conclusion that even if the music of ETS is far from innovative, the musicians are very well experienced and demonstrate enviable skill. The great ideas in addition make A Virgin And A Whore a real treasure at musical point!

BLOOD DUSTER
"Cunt" CD
RELAPSE

The Australian groovy grinders are back!! I don't know if you have ever heard this name but still I will state that BLOOD DUSTER is one of the most original and entertaining Underground bands coming from Australia! I couldn't say that "Cunt" is BLOOD DUSTER's best release ever but still the CD deserves fans' attention as a whole. The album itself is a combination of fast and energetic Grind with elements from 70's bands like BLACK SABBATH (for example) plus some rather jolly interludes and phrases. In comparison to the previous albums, "Cunt" sounds a bit more brutal and intense, yet the overall sound is just smashing once again! Yeah, here you have 18 killer lark tracks filled with some ultra fast Grind cannonades, diverse guitar riffs and a lot of groovy movie samples. And guess what you've been left for dessert: a smashing cover version of IMPETIGO's classic "Dis-Organized"! Cool Work!

ABSCISS
"Through The Cracks Of Death" CD
PEACEVILLE

Do you like the old, dirty sound of AUTOPSY? If yes, then much likely this album offers you 44 min of real fun. It is an interesting fact that two of AUTOPSY's sickest members ... the legendary Chris Reifert (drums, vocals and bass) and Danny Corrales (guitar and bass) are also in ABSCISS. These guys have recorded "Through..." in Different Fur Recording Studios, where they have recorded the masterpiece "Mental Funeral" back in 1990. The sound is very old-school with great rhythm section, numerous tempo changes and various vocal performances. Yes, this album is for the freaks who feel nostalgic for the good old years when Death Metal was young and more "from-the-heart-come". Well, I don't think I need to say more ... if you like the old seminal sound of AUTOPSY, you will like the one of AUTOPSY too!

NEGLIGENT COLLATERAL COLLAPSE
"Reprocess Segment Database Extender" CD
OBSCENE

Wow, Curby (The Obscene Prods boss) has found another ultra brutal band again from the Czech Republic! What you will hear from NCC might become the reason for your wildest nightmares in the future! Ultra brutal and insane Gore Grind with dead, dissonant inhuman vocals, from time to time, "diversified" by screams like coming from a half-stabbed pig. The Czech trio have used electronic drums meant only to amplify your suffering additionally while listening to NCC's 23 tracks and wondering which world you're exactly in... Definitely NCC are not for all, I suppose that with their ultra brutal Gore Grind these Czech dudes will make fans hate them rather than love them. But, since I know people who are into DEAD INFECTION, GUT, REGURGITATE, SQUASH BOWELS and so on, I believe that NCC will appeal to them as well, as this band is good enough to be added in the list of acts like the ones mentioned above. A matter of taste I wonder which time I state this for?!

AHMADO GRANUJO
"Splitter-Jak" CD
DOWNFALL Records

Well, it seems that each second or third band which is to be included in this Brutalica issue hails from either Poland or the Czech Republic!! Yet not less interesting is the fact that almost all of these bands did worth the listening so it seems to be really hard to find any mediocre acts in these two East European countries... AHMADO GRANUJO are not different at this point at least when it comes to recommending them to fans of ultra brutal yet funny Splitter Gore Grind. This band has mixed the above mentioned style with some techno samples and this diversifies the band's music to a great extent - actually most of the songs entertained me a lot. Still, do not get me wrong for AHMADO GRANUJO is a band you must be very careful with, these Czech dudes have created an ultra brutal blend of hyper fast

grind cannonades, low-tuned death guitars and derangingly sepulchral vocals much similar to the snarls of a gigantic creature. What this band appeals to me for is that its music is more vital and natural: the guys use real drums, the techno samplers do not sound obtrusive and the tracks are not catchy too much. As a whole, the guys know the true "recipe" for catchy Gore Grind very, very well. Definitely you have to check this band out if you are into acts like GUT, DEAD INFECTION, GORE BEYOND NECROPSY, IMPETIGO, REGURGITATE, etc.

SOULLESS
"Agony's Lament" CD
WORLD CHAOS Productions

What a great surprise! The debut album of USA's Thrashers SOULLESS hit me like a hammerblow. After I had reviewed their MCD some time ago (and I didn't put a high mark to it) I didn't expect these guys to come up with something so good. Agony's Lament is an excellent Thrash Metal album containing 10 great tracks. The style is something like THE HAUNTED or DEW SCENTED for example. I liked a lot the good guitar solos of Wayne Richards and Jim Corrick that add an authentic touch to the songs. The cover artwork and CD design are also awesome. SOULLESS is one of the most promising bands on the US Thrash scene, so THE HAUNTED better beware!

VADER
"Revelations" CD
METAL BLADE

It is not only myself who thinks that in the last 10 years VADER succeeded to gain the status of being not only the best accepted band from East Europe but also Europe's best Death Metal act! And if you think that this is due to luck only, you'll lose! Hell yeah, do you know any other band that has played over 350 times live within the frames of 3 years only? As though Africa is the only continent where these dudes have not been... yet. That's a serious breakthrough achieved by many years of hard working! So do I really need to say that all VADER albums, from the "The Ultimate Incantation" debut to the one I am listening to at the moment "Revelations" would easily be recognized as all-time best Death Metal albums... VADER is not only a mid-career band for bad mood, I just take one of their albums and put it in my silver ONKYO DVD / CD and my blood starts boiling, the energy of these Polish guys is just devastating! That goes for "Revelations" too, even though I feel that this album sounds more mature and diverse than all releases from VADER so far. The 9 tracks deal with adroitly performed, powerful Death Metal that is rapid at some places and slower at other. As if this CD unites the best moments from the previous ones, tracks like "Epitaph", "The Nomad", "Wolfride" are just breathtaking merely because VADER never leave you to get bored, their power and energy is so sweepy - you must be made of stone if you don't manage to feel anything while listening to Doc's brilliant drum performances, those of the new bass player Simon, Maise's phenomenal solos and the masterful guitar riffs and vocals of the mainman Peter. The most interesting track on the album is the last composition, the 7-minute "Revelation Of Black Moses" that starts untypically slow to become even slower and slower further, despite the listener's expectations of hearing it grow faster - what an impact, eh? So if you regard VADER as a predictable act, think again... In short, here is another masterpiece from Poland's best-in-class VADER that is certainly to be added to my GOLDEN collection!

ALIENATION MENTAL
"Ball Spouter" CD
KHAARANUS Productions

Again a band from the Czech Republic and again it is a hyper brutal outfit. The very first track whirled me like a tornado with its indescribable blend of immortal fast tempo and vocals like coming from beyond... What a friend of mine told me about this album was, in the first moment I almost believed that I was listening to CRYPTOPSY on vinyl set to 72 rpm... Yes, ALIENATION MENTAL is a fucking fast and crazy band playing a devilish kind of Death / Grind with gory, deranging vocals. The drummer sounds like he beats the skins with the speed of light, I suppose he must have changed several kits during the recording of the 10 tracks for "Ball Spouter"! The sound is very powerful and heavy, the guitars are very dense and low tuned, which is obligatory for ALIENATION MENTAL. The songs are not straightforward but rather unpredictable - now you hear a slower moment and in the next few seconds it could be altered with a vehement cannonade of hyper fast drum attacks. But in my opinion the band is still in search of their own style as the tracks sound somewhat chaotic in some points, but still the album is good as a whole and will appeal to fans into lightning fast Death / Grind with ultra brutal guttural vocals. Future lies ahead for ALIENATION MENTAL, I'm sure this band is capable of creating something even better!

IMMERSED IN BLOOD
"Relentless Retaliation" CD
DOWNFALL Records

I think that this band has potential enough to be expecting a great future! What convinced me of that was the 5 tracks on this CD. IMMERSED IN BLOOD are from Sweden but their style differs from that of the ordinary Swedish bands, the music of this outfit is a mixture of the old works of bands like GRAVE or HYPOCRISY and those of the US Death Metal bands like DYING FETUS, MONSTROSITY, BROODUQUIN, INTERNAL BLEEDING and a lot of more similar outfits. IMMERSED IN BLOOD are also very technical, in one composition you can distinguish more than 20 tempo changes namely some cool Grind parts, very dense and scrapping guitars and typical standard Death Metal growls. However, some more is needed here, the musicians have to keep on practicing and refining their songwriting manner. Yet the guys need to be sufficiently active all the time in order to join the winners' list in this constant competition that features many good bands... At least I am sure that IMMERSED IN BLOOD have taken the right direction and will certainly gain success if they remain serious and if luck is on their side, of course. Remember that name though!!

JOHN WESLEY
"Chasing Monsters" CD
DREAM CATCHER

This is quite an amazing album to review for Brutalica Magazine. JOHN WESLEY is the solo project of "the guitarist and vocalist J. W. I said it is strange to review it as the style of "Chasing Monsters" is Melodic Blues Rock in the vein of STING and maybe Joe Satriani. An interesting fact to mention is that the drummer and engineer of this album is no one else but Mark Prator, who is also the engineer for ICED EARTH. The single "Fly Boy" contains two versions of this track and a non-album song, called "An Ordinary Man". Fans of STING and good Melodic Rock must check this album out, but I

would not recommend it to the ordinary Brutalica readers!

OCULT
"Rage Of Revenge" CD
PAINKILLER Records

OCULT is one of the oldest Death / Thrash formations from Holland. Maybe it would be interesting for you to know that the band has a female singer (Rachel) and her screams are like from a witch. Unfortunately, after the recording of the "Rage Of Revenge" she left the band to join SINISTER. Well, the music of OCULT is rapid and intense Death Metal with a lot of Thrash feelngs. Something very similar to the early works of PESTILENCE but the voice of Rachel is something very specific and makes the band sound more original. In some of the songs there are two types of vocals - the male grunts of Maurice and the Death Metal screams of Rachel, something which is really interesting. The band's sound is old-school, more of the tracks remind of the late 80's when Death Metal was still considered as a new current in music and most of the bands were much more Thrash Metal influenced than are the bands nowadays. The album has been recorded at Harrow Studio (ASPHYX, PENTACLE, MELCHIOR, etc.), the production is not really extraordinary but as a whole it is ok (what I didn't like was the guitar blend basically). What deserves your applause is the way the final product is presented - a luxury & elegant A5 digipack with a 12-page colour booklet! Not a bad band, qualitative and energetic Metal plus a remarkable digipack packaging - this all is worth your money! In case you are into old-school Death / Thrash Metal, this band is for you!

FORSAKEN
"Iconoclast" MCD
GOLDEN LAKE

After all these ultra brutal Death / Grind bands which I gave a listen to this week, I could finally take a break! I have been dying to hear some qualitative, epic Doom Metal with deep emotional moments and slow heavy guitar riffs. Yes, this is what these Metal veterans from the Paradise island (Malta) offer, after being formed about 12 years ago. What is most surprising here is that in the last several months I had the pleasure of hearing 3-4 formations coming from Malta and they all were playing a high quality Metal referred to different genres - from FORSAKEN's Doom Metal to BEHEADED's brutal Death Metal. Anyway, now we have to speak about the MCD "Iconoclast", it contains 4 quite long songs in which you can feel the influences from bands like BLACK SABBATH, CANDELMASS, SOLITUDE AETERNUS and even THE GATHERING. Very emotional and epic Doom Metal with high clear vocals, very dense and heavy guitars and a lot of emotional and mournful guitar solos. My favourite track is the phenomenal composition "Via Crucis" (you can hear it on our CD Sampler), which is something I will remember for ages. It is so deep, so epic and so emotional and majestic, it left me completely breathless. This was an incredible song, believe me! The other three songs are also very good; especially if you like doom Metal with some progressive touches, they will be a real pleasure for you. Definitely FORSAKEN is a great band which I recommend to every emotional Metal connoisseur.

SPITE EXTREME WING
"Magnificat" CD
BEYOND...Productions

I read the interview that my colleagues have done with this band and I thought "Magnificat" would be an interesting CD, since the leader Argento has some very mystical and philosophical concepts about this album. However, the music is very fast and aggressive Black Metal but quite monotonous in moments and I can't find anything catchy here, just sheer extremity and unholy screams. The guys use a drum machine and this makes their music very static and synthetic, the good moments are too few here but still I could notice some intriguing ideas - I can say on which songs exactly as I don't have a tracklist on my copy. If you like primitive extreme Black Metal, "Magnificat" would appeal to you for sure. But I myself couldn't find anything different and original - just another adjunct to the ordinary Black Metal releases that we come across every day!

MISERICORDIA
"Erase The Siles" MCD
DOWNFALL Records

I don't know what is going on, despite the tons of rumours regarding the imminent death of Black Metal as a whole, labels keep on releasing tons of albums by brand - new Black Metal bands and obviously there exist people who buy them... Today's Metal market is unpredictable - sometimes cool bands remain almost unnoticed unlike many other that are pretty mediocre! So, MISERICORDIA is the next Swedish extreme Black Metal band in the vein of MARODUK and many, many other acts like that accentuating on the same evil screaming, primitive guitar riffing and hyperfast drums. Still I couldn't deny that MISERICORDIA's members are rather adroit musicians that could have easily chosen playing Thrash, Death Metal or Grind Core, but since they prefer creating extreme Black Metal, no problem! In the info sheet I read about the band's live gigs, that they were real extraordinary and brutal shows - so if you like corpse-paints, torches, inverted crosses, etc. you should check this band out. I prefer going to a VADER concert!

UNSILENCE
"A Walk Through Oceans" MCD
GOLDEN LAKE

This MCD is very special for me because we printed the CD cover (Brutalica Print) and also we contributed to the label to press the CDs here in Bulgaria. I hope that, with our small help, we will have contributed to the band's success in the future. Otherwise, these UK Doom Metalers are quite famous in the Underground circles as they exist for more than 10 years yet their music is very emotional and on a very high level and this, I believe, will be confirmed by every connoisseur! As I stated already, the style of UNSILENCE is emotional and melodic Doom Metal with great epic & majestic moments and atmosphere. I can point out only one more band with such a style and this is the mighty UK Doom masters SOLSTICE (unfortunately I heard that they broke up). Still UNSILENCE's songs are a bit more melancholic than the ones of SOLSTICE, I think. This is high quality Doom Metal with very clear and at places sorrowful vocals, slow heavy and dense guitars and some very remarkable and skilled guitar solos. The 4 tracks (which are quite long) are recorded at the famous Academy Studio and engineered by the guru Mags, who is responsible for a lot of Metal classics through the years. Nice band with very beautiful and emotional music which I really enjoyed, I hope if you are a fan of the doom sound you will like UNSILENCE too...

BILHARZIA
"Bloodfuke" Demo Tape
MISERY Records

Some qualitative Death Metal coming from Malaysia. Definitely BILHARZIA have something to show, they have the talent and the ideas but the sound... it's bad even for a demo record. The voice is almost non-existent, the rhythm guitars are weak, only the solos can be heard properly. Otherwise Nuvur (guitar) is a really skilled musician, he reveals best his abilities in the instrumental "Bloodfuke". So guys, try to record this material in a studio with better equipment and the result will be an impressive Death Metal album.

LIFEND
"Enthined Emotions" Demo CD-R
Self Released

Well, I couldn't say that this demo CD shines with anything special. LIFEND's material deals with melancholic Black Metal with both male and female vocals and keyboard parts plus the obligatory vociferations. At least the sound is rather good and this very fact makes me think that the people of the outfit considered are not bereft of the aim at creating qualitative music. I appreciate this myself so I wish LIFEND good luck in the future.

BUTCHERY
"The Coming" Demo Tape
Self Released

This is for sure one of the most brutal outfits coming from Sweden lately. BUTCHERY play brutal Death / Grind typical for the US scene. Their sound is close to the sound of RELENTLESS - another brutal Death Metal band from Sweden. The three tracks will appeal to all brutal freaks out there so for contacts use: butchery666@hotmail.com

INSOMNIA
"Serendipity" Demo CD-R
Self Released

Definitely not bad! What I heard from Poland's INSOMNIA was mysterious Death / Doom with trumpet parts inserted here and there, enigmatic synths and awesome leads. The demo CD dates since 2001 and contains 5 tracks that display pretty well the musicians' ability of creating REALLY original music! Very, very promising...

VOMITOR
"Vomitor" Demo Tape
Self Released

Another band from Australia following the steps of DESTROYER 666 and SADISTIK EKEKUTION. VOMITOR are trio playing oldschool Thrash / Black Metal influenced from early SODOM, HELLHAMMER, etc... They have successfully created the dark atmosphere typical for the style but unfortunately there are only two songs in the demo - "Neutron Hammer" and "Midnight Madness". If you're a Black / Thrash Metal fan you'll enjoy this for sure.

CRYSTAL MOORS
"Dominion Of The Ancient Seal" Demo CD-R
Self Released

This band hails from Spain and what its demo '2001 is about is epic Death / Black Metal. The 9 tracks included outstanding for their emphatically dismal sound that brings (unwitting) sorrow for ages buried in the labyrinth of Time long ago... Good result as a demo, that's all I can say. Web: http://www.crystalland.co.net

ABSEMA
"Absema" Promo CD-R
Self Released

Ugh, these Argentinean terrorists literally perforated my brain with their hyper blasting Death Grind! And keep in mind that this CD-R includes 3 tracks only so the total time is like 7 min. I really have no the guts even to think about if I would have felt like it if I have heard a standard 45 min. CD... Hell yeah, I doubt if there is any uglier and more brutal band in Argentina than ABSEMA (or maybe I am not aware enough, I don't know...). Thus, like I stated already, these guys play utterly brutal Death Grind with undescribably disgusting vocals, hyper speed drums, standard Death Metal riffs and very good sound. I heard that they have released also their debut album so try to find their records if you are into the most brutal forms of Metal. Contact: absema@hotmail.com

MAPLE CROSS
"Promo 2002" CD-R
Self Released

Here is another reunion this time from Finland. Although MAPLE CROSS have been formed back in 1985 this is my first ever encounter with their essence. What I heard was 3 tracks of average Thrash / Heavy Metal - not a trace of the 80's vigour! The band has 8 ready songs yet so this promo CD appears to be MAPLE CROSS' announcement for their upcoming return. Well, may the rest 5 songs sound more dynamic... What I could mention in the guys' aid is their numerous live shows in the past with bands like DARKTHRONE, INVOCATOR, WALTARI, PRESTIGE, A. R. G., HYBRID CHILDREN, etc.

ERESHKIGAL
"Tragedies of Death... The Afterlife" Demo Tape
Self Released

I heard this band last year when I was sent for reviewing its "A Dark Tale..." demo that included a cover version of GHEENNA's "Angewings And Ravensclaws". I remember I found ERESHKIGAL pretty ridiculous back then but what I am listening to at the moment is about to convince me that I simply must make a 45 degrees turn at least! For these Mexican dudes have definitely progressed within the frames of 1 year! Thus, what they offer is morose and vigorous Black Metal with a rather good sound quality. A worthy return, I should admit, let's see what will come from ERESHKIGAL next!

BLACK EMPIRE
"The Black Magic Domain" Demo Tape
Self Released

Definitely this Mexican outfit offers nothing new in the fields of today's Black Metal but at least I could feel the guys' sincere will of becoming a part of the Scene instead of remaining listeners only. "The Black Magic Domain" includes 7 songs reminding me of ABSU in moments. The keyboard parts are not forgotten however and I actually liked them for their dismal melodiously. There are also some uncanny samples inserted and they contribute to the more diverse sound of this recording to a great extent. Web: http://www.angelfire.com/my/aband/blackempire

Unsilence

Having released „Forever Advancing... Legions“ by MITHRAS, Golden Lake Prods turned their attention to another qualitative UK act to enhance the label further. On their first release, the „Hymns Of Rebellion“ compilation, the Golden Lake team included „The Gallery“ from the English doomsters UNSILENCE. The label guys loved this band so much that they offered them a deal for releasing the MCD „A Walk Through Oceans“. UNSILENCE agreed and this MCD saw the light in the end of 2002. Here the guitarist Keiron will inform the readers what is going on with the band and what are their hopes for the near future.

DILIANA IANKOVA

-UNSILENCE is an unknown band to me and I suppose that many of the Brutalica readers have not heard of you either... Would you introduce your band to us all (your very beginning, etc)?

We started in December 1993 with mostly a different line-up from today. Only myself and our vocalist Andrew Hodson remained from that era. We recorded our debut demo, „Shadows Cast In Stone“ the following year. Our style had more Death Metal influences in it back then, partly because some of us played in Death Metals bands before. We did our first gigs around that time. During 1995, we had a few line-up changes and we recorded our second demo „An Unfinished Chapter“, which saw the Doom influence in our style become more prominent. This was to be released as a MCD by Full Moon Rising (Italy) but it turned out that the label was just some kid dreaming. We released it as a demo the following year. Around that time, our present drummer Jonathon Gibbs and present bassist David Elliott joined. At the end of 1996, we signed to another Italian label called Seven Art Music and we recorded our debut album for them the following year. Unfortunately, that album also didn't get released as Seven Art fell through. By 1999, with the album still not having been released, we decided to release the MCD ourselves. We recorded „Transfiguration“ that year and it was released in March 2000. It received a good response from the Underground. Our present guitarist, James Kilmurray joined at the time we released the MCD. We sacked the guitarist we had before him just before recording the MCD. I played all the guitars on it. We signed with Golden Lake last year for the MCD and we recorded it last March. It was released last month. **Your MCD is a very promising debut in my opinion. What lead you to (the famous) Academy Studio? I also know that Mags was the engineer...**

Thanks for the positive opinion. Although we've released a MCD before it and some other releases, as mentioned in the previous answer so it's hardly a debut. With Academy / Mags, we'd heard a number of releases that were recorded there and knew some bands that'd worked there. Also, it's quite affordable and not too far from where we live. So it made more sense to go there than to go to some nearby studio who wouldn't have a clue.

-Why did you choose Golden Lake Productions exactly? By the way, have you received offers from other labels before the recording of „A Walk Through Oceans“?

The offer from Golden Lake suited us well as we wanted to record another MCD as opposed to a full-length album at that time. They also seemed professional but genuine at the same time. We did receive some other offers but the Golden Lake one suited us the best. The biggest worry for us as far as choosing a label's concerned is will they release it or will the deal fall through. Quite obvious given the way things have been in the past with labels.

-The production is rather good and this is not the only thing which UNSILENCE impressed me with; your music reminds me of PRIMORDIAL! Does this band inspire you indeed?

I like PRIMORDIAL and so do most of the other members of the band. But I don't see much of their style in ours. Any comparisons would be more in having similar influences, like CELTIC FROST, CANDLEMASS, BATHORY. Also, we have the occasional CF sounding riff so that could draw some comparisons, as well as the melancholic edge. But they're from a more Black Metal background and we're from a more doom one. I suppose comparisons arise from the bands you know.

-What exactly lies in your lyrics, are the 4 tracks united by any concrete concept?

There is no particular concept to the lyrics on the MCD. Andrew handles most of the lyrics. He does take some inspiration from what he reads. The lyrics to „A Walk Through Oceans“ was inspired by folk, maritime stuff but given a dark and surreal twist. The idea for the lyrics of „Unknown“ came from the novel „Gorminghast“ by Mervyn Peake. The lyrics to „Still“ are more inspired by desperate personal struggles. The lyrics to „Deep Is The Stigma“, which were written by me, are also in a similar vein, dealing with how stigma can come before everything. Even in your own mind.

-How did it come to the composing of all these riffs with such a melancholic atmosphere?

It's just the style we enjoy and it relates to our personalities and experiences in some way.

-Your opinion about PRIMORDIAL or THYRFING? Is it such kind of bands you listen to?

As mentioned earlier, I do listen to PRIMORDIAL. But I have yet to check out THYRFING. PRIMORDIAL are certainly one of the more challenging, original and passionate bands in today's scene.

-Have you participated in other outfits before creating this MCD? The reason for asking you this is the obvious adroitness which the songs are performed with. Maybe you're involved in any other projects currently as well?

I'm not quite sure what you're asking me here. If it's „have we done any previous releases?“ then I mentioned them in question 1. If it's „Have you ever been in any bands before UNSILENCE?“ then, yes, some of us have. I played in a Death Metal band called BURIAL for three years before UNSILENCE. All the others have been involved in bands before too. But none of them ever really got off the ground. None of us are involved in any side projects. Our drummer would like to form a more technical Metal band. Like DREAM THEATRE or something. He also has a passion for that style. I wouldn't ever rule out doing a side project. Or any of the other members doing one.

-How about concerts, have you played live as yet?

We've played a number of gigs over the years. The first one was in the summer of 1994. The gigs have mainly been in the north of England, where we're from. Places like Bradford, Manchester, Bolton, etc. But we have also played a few gigs in London and in August of 2001, we played two gigs in Ireland (Belfast and Dublin). Some of the bands we have played gigs with include NIGHTMARE VISIONS, MORBID SYMPHONY, HONEY FOR CHRIST, ANATHEMA, MEPHISTO, DER UNTERMENSCH, SOLSTICE, THE PROPHECY, HECATE ENTHRONED, MOURNING BELOVETH, THE ENCHANTED, ACKERCOKE, etc.

-I have always thought that it is not easy for an English Metal band to survive as I have always found that competition is really huge out there... What do you think about CRADLE OF FILTH, by the way? Do you consider them as serious rivals and, in case you don't, which is the band you could mention at that point?

I wouldn't consider there to be any rivalry between CRADLE OF FILTH and us. They do their thing to their own crowd, which is generally more mainstream. Many of which I'd assume wouldn't be interested in us, either because of the music; the fact we don't have any gimmicks or because we're not a trendy name to drop. Bands over here who could possibly be considered rivals would be other doom bands like MY DYING BRIDE, SOLSTICE (R.I.P.), THE PROPHECY, ANATHEMA (Maybe not as much given the way they sound these days), and WARNING. There are not that many bands doing a similar style to us in England these days.

-Does the name of Bulgaria speak anything to you? Maybe you have happened to give any of our groups a listen?

I don't know too much about Bulgaria except that it's in Eastern Europe, next to the Black Sea (Where things can be

well preserved). Our vocalist had a holiday there a few years ago but it turned out to be a bit of a disaster on the part of the holiday company. He thought it was a nice place though. I know even less about the Metal scene there. Although when we were going to be releasing the album for Seven Art, a Bulgarian label called Wizard Records was going to release a cassette version for Eastern Europe. However, when I was in my previous band, I had a few people from Bulgaria writing and asking for demos, claiming they'd send me some Bulgarian vodka in return. I sent a few of them tapes. I wasn't hoping for much. At best, it would have got our name circulated in your country. But one of them did keep to his word and sent me some Bulgarian Vodka. It was good stuff too and I'm not that much of a vodka drinker!

-What else are you occupied with save playing in UNSILENCE?

We all have workday jobs and do a lot of the usual things like going to pubs and seeing gigs. Our vocalist attends all the home matches by the local football team, Bolton Wanderers. Our drummer also does a zine called The Inquisition. The first issue came out over two years ago but I don't know when he'll have the second one ready.

-Does your contract with Golden Lake include other albums releasing? What should we expect from UNSILENCE in the future?

No, the contract with Golden Lake is just for this one MCD. Weather we'll work with them again in the future depends on what other offers we may have and if we're generally pleased with them. We have already started writing new material and have the music for two new songs written. We hope to be able to record a full-length album in early 2004.

-Say something about the very name of your band - what is it meant to mirror? Are you noisy guys or do you think that you must be heard first (by creating unsilence!) in order to be left alone so that you could keep on being inspired by melancholy, the very mood which your songs are filled with?

It is meant as an unsilencing of the more deeper, hidden emotions. None of us are particularly noisy. Quite the opposite actually.

-Your closing thoughts? Thanks...

Thanks a lot for the interview. Just to inform the readers, our website (<http://www.unsilence.co.uk>) is presently down due to the host trying to rip us off. Unless we can sort it soon (Which is now looking likely), we're going to be setting up the website on a temporary server until the summer, when our domain will be up for renewal. And when the website is active again, it will be a long-overdue new design, which I've designed. We're also looking into playing some gigs in Europe for spring. Probably in Germany and Belgium. Contact us on unsilence@hvcos.com

Crushing christian Morality!!!

DEAD30CD CD/TS/LS



WIND OF THE BLACK MOUNTAINS "Black Sun Shall Rise" CD

Four years in the making, the vilest USBM cult returns with the highly anticipated "Black Sun Shall Rise". Shedding the atmospheric elements from their debut, WOTBM strike with a mature and brutal American Black Metal sound. Evoking 9 rituals of fast, raw and Satanic USBM, WOTBM deliver your soul to the gates of hell!!!

DEAD36CD CD



GENOCIDE KOMMANDO "Black Metal Supremacy" CD

The War dogs unleash a militant era of Satanic terror! Grim, totalitarian Black Metal from France/Portugal, featuring Kommanders Noktu (Drakkar Prod.) and Horrendus (Corpus Christi) in their ranks. G.K. delivers nuclear devastation leaving nothing but clouds of Human Dust in their wake!!!

DEAD35CD CD



MEAT SHITS "Sniper at the Fag Parade" CD

Bullets fly and the homos start to die! The "companion" CD to "Violence..." will not disappoint. If you're P.C. queer bait, better duck & cover as Robert Deathrage and Co. have taken aim with lethal accuracy!!! Gore-Grind Porn Supreme 110% guaranteed to offend the liberal OR conservative in you!!!

DEAD37ep 7"EP



MERRIMACK/SARGEIST "Split" 7"ep Lim. Ed. 1,000

French Black Legionnaires Merrimack command nihilistic Black Metal Art. Finland's devoted Satanic disciples Sargeist dictate tyrannical BM Hymns. Exclusive attacks by each regiment recently enlisted in the Cult Militia!

DEAD32ep 7"EP



FORNICATOR/MEAT SHITS "Split" 7"ep Lim. Ed. 1,000

Scummy Porn Death / Grind for the filthy pervert in you! FORNICATOR fondle one exclusive track + degrade & rape Running Wild's "Under Jolly Roger"! M.S. defecate four previously unreleased movements!

STILL AVAILABLE:

MEAT SHITS



"Gorenography" CD

MEAT SHITS



"Violence Against Feminist Cunts" CD

MASOCHIST



"History" Double CD

FORNICATOR



"Fornicator" CD

THY INFERNAL



"Warlords Of Hell" CD

CULT CLASSIC RE-ISSUES:

MEAT SHITS



"Fuck Frenzy + Bonus" CD

MEAT SHITS



"Ecstasy Of Death" CD

WIND OF THE BLACK MOUNTAINS



"Sing Thou Unholy Servants" CD

JUDAS ISCARIOT



"Thy Dying Light" CD+Rom

BELIAL



"Gods Of The Pit II" CD

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The new born French Underground label Skull Fucked Productions has released a split CD featuring two very young and hellish brutal Death / Grind bands. Since the label put tracks of both bands in our CD Sampler we decided to do interviews with them and give them the support which they really deserve. So, here is the interview with one of the bands ... REPUDIATE, hope it will catch your interest!

DILIANA IANKOVA

-Let's start this interview with concentrating on REPUDIATE's past for a while... How, when and why did you form the band?

In early 2001, REPUDIATE was created with a single dim: making good intense brutal Death to enjoy ourselves! At that time, we were only three members: Nicolas (lead guitar), David (rhythm guitar) and Mitch (vocals). A few months later Arnaud (bass) and P.O. (drums) joined the band. So we were ready to bang our heads, to drink some beers and the battle still continues! In the past, we were in other bands of melodic Death Metal, symphonic Black / Death some of us weren't playing the same instruments (P.O. was a vocalist / guitarist and Arnaud was a drummer and a guitarist!).

-The quality is rather good for a demo! Where did you record it?

We recorded our demo "Neurasthenia" at Nicolas' own home studio (...we mean his room!). The tracks from the split CD GERBE OF LIFE / REPUDIATE have a better sound and were also recorded in Nicolas' room! But no, we would like to record in a real studio for the drums and the voices to get a real brutal sound!! We could slash some heads than!

-Are you satisfied with what you created in the studio? Would you change something in case you have the opportunity of going back in time?

We have done the best we could with our material, but as we said before, a real studio is what we definitively need in order to have a good drum sound, more guitar parts as well as more voices! We are heading for it!

-How about REPUDIATE's manner of composing? I mean, do you create your music together or does every-one contribute with his own ideas?

Most of the time, the music (composed by David, rhythm guitar) come after the lyrics written by Mitch and David. Sometimes, the tracks are composed by Nicolas („Spiritual Way"). The arrangements are done by the whole band while rehearsing.

-What inspires you to make music? Bands like CANNIBAL CORPSE maybe?

To speak the truth, a lot of Metal bands inspire us as well as a real urge to kill everyone one stage! Concerning Metal bands, we listen to a lot of things: we all appreciate MORBID ANGEL, NILE, DEICIDE, IMMOLATION... Some of us are more into the polish Death Metal scene, some others in the Brazilian way (IMPERIOUS MALEVOLENCE...). Our hearts belong to the evil old school US Thrash / Death empire!

-What are your lyrics about?

Our lyrics deal about betrayal, be it our personal convictions or historical subjects: here is the meaning of why we decided to call ourselves REPUDIATE and why our first album will be called „Devoted To Betrayal". The lyrics are often very implicit except for the historical ones („Hangman's Smile", „Action Heyde" ...): they are

explicit and so it couldn't have been written differently. -Do you play live and what do you think a really perfect, KILLER concert should be like?

We have played at the Skull Fucked Fest (Strasbourg Molodoi France) few month ago with CBT, INHUMATE, ALIENATION MENTAL, BLOCKHEADS, GERBE OF LIFE and ABRASIVE. We also played at the frontline (Belgium, Gent) with NECROBLASPHEME, CARNAL LUST and KRARATH. It was the first live experiences for the band (remember we are playing together for a year now). A real killer concert should be like this: A pure raw brutal fuckin' sound to destroy everything on sight, brutal maniacs digging pits, beers everywhere!! (may be some sluts could...). Bands like VADER, INHUMATE, MORBID ANGEL, INHUME, HATE ETERNAL... Really know how to make a killer concert!!

-Why did you take course to brutal Death / Grind music exactly?

We do that kind of music because it's the only thing that gives us a huge erection!! (...with pussies!!) and to get free beers! More seriously, we really appreciate brutal stuff, so it's very natural for us to play that kind of things.

-Could you say a few words about each of the tracks?

„Ocean Of Storms" deals about the fanatic...in religions. „Blessed By Emptiness", „Bloody Thorns" and „Spiritual Way" about the falsehood of religions. „Hangman's Smile" is about the massive extermination during the World War II.

-I guess there are REPUDIATE girlfriends too, what do you think about them?

We haven't seen their little pink ass holes yet... If Bulgarians sluts read this interview, they can send us pix!! Thanks for your support!!

-Which is the latest release that impressed you really much?

The latest releases that really impressed are: NILE, HATE ETERNAL, ORIGIN... For the inhuman technical drums demonstration...

-Is the music you play your favourite as well?

Sure, Death Metal is the best thing for us... But we are not blinded by that: Nicolas and Arnaud work Joe Satriani and Steve Vai too...and P.O. likes salsa drums.

-What are you going to do after this interview?

We'll working during 4-5 hours together and we go to drink some beers all the night!!

-Are you busy with something else save REPUDIATE? I mean jobs, studying, etc...

Yes, David works and it is not easy for him to do that but... And all members are actually students (multimedia and scientific studies...).

-Your message for the Brutalica readers? Bye...

We hope we can play soon in Bulgaria, support the Underground and stay brutal!!



It was late in 2001 when I heard about this hilarious duo from Germany. Back then their „tribute to the commercial in both pop and metal" appealed to me so much that I inserted a BsB review in the previous Brutalica issue and I was really sorry that there was no time for an interview as the magazine was almost done... Nevertheless, late is better than never, I received the BLACKSEED BOYS' replies yesterday and I think we did great job together, he-he-he... Perhaps many fans will condemn me as a traitor or something and they will be wrong: I LOVE metal! What I aimed at with this very interview was showing the (bored) crowd that STILL there are people who are capable of transforming triviality to a paragon of fresh humour and aesthetic irony! In short, why don't you have some fun for a while, eh?

VANYA MARINOVA

-Your CD is in my hands right now... The more I look at your logo the longer the „targetset" seems to be: COF, ENSLAVED, SATYRICON, EMPEROR, DISSECTION, HYPOCRISY... So these are the bands which you're apt of regarding as clichés in the extreme music, right? Or maybe the very logo should be giving us a clue of what the BLACKSEED BOYS are backgrounded by?

Your thoughts lead to the right direction: With the letters of our logo you're supposed to get glimpses into those kinds of music we like and that describe the musical direction of the BLACKSEED BOYS. Of course some of them like C.O.F. or DARK FUNERAL are laden with clichés, but that's not the only reason why we stole letters from their logos. Take Meshuggah or BAL-SAGOTH for example, unique styles inspiring our music as well as straight-forward stuff like Cannibal Corpse or Abigor. (By the way, is it possible you misinterpreted the „L" of Limbonic Art?)

-As if I see not a Dimmu Borgirous „trace" here??!

Yeah, the „o" in Boys is indeed taken from the old Dimmu logo, the one they used until Enthroned Darkness Triumph came out. That was the time when we really got into Black Metal and saw the Dimmu Boygroup with Dissection, Cradle and In Flames on the first B.M. show we ever went to. Damn, that were cheesy Black Metal clichés, back then! Primitive corpse paint, bloodspitting, lots of spikes and ammo, not that kind of decent stuff they do these days...

-Your humour seems to be directed to current Black / Death Metal rather than to Sliced Girls, B. Fears or My Kill - Jack's Sin; it was the very front cover that made me think so... Which kind of superficiality is less forgivable (and why): this in metal or that in pop music? I guess the answer is in my question

but still I couldn't help asking...

That's not that bad a question. And the fact that you couldn't decide wich superficiality dominates the mockings of Pandamonium proves, that we did a good job. What we wanted to state with that CD is that both, pop music and cheap Black Metal are basically the same things: ridiculous forms of music that demand distance from the listener. For if he or she starts to take those two kinds of evil music too serious, they might either end up like Jon from Dissection, killing other people or burning churches, or like 90 % of today's youth, narrowminded little consuming-machines, the super- and artificial plastic generation.

-What do you think about veterans like Venom, Possessed or Darkthrone?

We might burn in hell for this :-), but these bands give us nothing. We're really not into that kind of raw old-school Metal, probably because they are „too old" for us. When we started listening to more extreme metal music than Metallica, it was bands like Amorphis or Hypocrisy that impressed us, the more melodic ones...

-How about the Thrash icons Sodom, Destruction and Kreator? Do you feel proud of being from Germany at this point?

Many years ago I owned the „Tapping the Vein", but I have no idea where it is right now and I'm not sad about that loss. Just like Venom or Darkthrone they may be good bands in their categor(ely) and have surely influenced a whole generation of good metal musicians (if you consider the Cradle coverings and the like, it's even our favourites), but Thrash Metal has never been the kind of music we paid more attention to than necessary. And even in the case we would, that's



no reason at all to feel proud of being German. Isn't it foolish to be proud of anything you yourself didn't accomplish or at least helped to establish? I mean we don't feel the guilt of former generations either, although without doubt we can learn a lot from history, also from former bands and music styles.

-What other stuff are you both into save metal?

There's lots of different music styles we like. Starting with close relatives of extreme Metal we could mention Subway to Sally or Angizia. Then there's medieval minstrel's music (Corvus Corax) and percussion music (African, South American or the like) to lift spirits, some movie soundtracks (Bram Stoker's Dracula, Conan the Barbarian,...) for dense atmosphere and some of the so called "serious" composers for interesting / inspiring ideas.

-I guess the BLACKSEED BOYS are much more famous nowadays. Have you already happened to receive posts from weird fans or musicians even?

That's a wild guess. Are we more popular nowadays? Anyway, we got some stupid mails from vexed metal-fanatics, but if you mean serious people or those whose music we transformed, the answer is no. Now thinking about it, we could send Dark Funeral our cover and ask them how they like it! They surely understand that kind of humor. On the other hand, we collected more than 450 "fan-mails" during the last 4 years. That is more than we ever expected to get when we started the project long ago - Thanks to ye all!!!

-Have you thought of presenting "Pandamonium..." on stage?

I guess you and some BSB friends who (might) play guitars, drums and synths could do great job live...

That's a fantastic idea. We're gonna call up Trym, Frost and Nick Ikonow (since they're the only drummers who might stand at least a little chance to play our inhuman drumtracks) to take a couple of keyboards (three or four should suffice) - finding a third guitarist is really no problem (he or she would only have to practice a lot) - and then all meet up and rob a bank to fund the proper equipment, pay the clubs and last but far from least, bribe the copyright owners... No, what we seriously could do is play to a backing CD with all keys, drums and bass (oh sorry, we forgot to mention those finger breaking bass lines) just like Limbionic Art do, but we'd have to organize everything on our own and keep deep in the shadows, for if wrong or too much attention was drawn to us, we might get problems with EMI, Sony or whatever labels Madonna and her complices are on.

-What's your point concerning the backstage chicks?

Why not? Although it's more than probable, that the backstage chicks wouldn't stay too long. See, we're not rich, don't drink too much alcohol (leave away drugs), don't fuck around with creatives, just because they have holes in their bodies, hate cars and motorbikes (especially the loud and fast ones all the other rockstars brag with) and all the other things. But if you consider interested and interesting female human beings, that look for other things than money, fame, sex, drugs and Rock n Roll backstage chicks as well, the whole thing looks completely different.

-Would you have the guts to send your material to a label that deals with more commercial bands on the whole?

This would be rather dangerous for us, because all the lyrics and lots of the melodies / harmonies are adapted from the original bands and we do not search conflicts with the big capitalist record labels. They won't have the same sense of humor as we do, you know. And when they unleash their heavy lawyers, that might get more than too expensive for us... Honestly said, a few years ago, we did send a demo tape with our first four songs to the German label Nuclear Blast, but they never answered.

-I don't know if you've ever come across the www.metalmaker.net link - I suppose it would be a real treasure for people suffering of lack of creativity, heh...

What do we have our heart and brains for? You're right, we do not need to feel melancholy, love, etc anymore, because now a machine does the job. Well, I checked the abilities of that homepage and it only made me laugh. I don't know where these ridiculous lyrics come from or how they are created, but in my opinion there is no need for something like that.

-As if more and more bands insert electronic elements in their music - is this to be the serial trend cry?

Yes, of course it is a trend, but since not every generation can invent the wheel anew, why should they not incorporate some up to date technical developments into their music (considering that using guitar effects and orchestral keyboards was new once, too)? Just think about the possibilities the computer opens: soundscape compositions of yet unheard musical colours, whole new tone scales, speeds and other difficulties that no human being could ever master on any instrument; the list is endless. But unfortunately not many bands use up the chances. For example is Animatronic and The Kovenant just crap if you compare it to Nexus Polaris. And on the other hand there are bands that are affected so much by electronics that it dominates their music until normal metal freaks just don't understand it any more (like Ulver).

-Don't you regard Gothic music as rather tedious as well? All that spleen (constantly) surrounded by flowers, etc...

What exactly would you call Gothic music? What about the Dusk... And Her Embrace, isn't that totally inspired by Gothic novels, poems and clichés? We always thought Gothic, as that word is used today, is more a feeling or a style (just like Hip Hop is the feeling and style around breakdance and Rap music). Wearing black clothes with lots of laces, using black eyeliner (also male people), having this sort of romantic illusion of sadness and death, candles and all those kinds of things are what you'd call a typical "Gothic", the "Black No. 1" today, wouldn't it? Well, some of that so-called Gothic music is rather tedious, but as in every genre, there are very few interesting things going on amidst lots and lots of boring stuff. Concerning the question, how anger and flowers go together, we recommend watching Satyricon's Roadkill Extravaganza video, the scene where they pose so neatly with beautiful flowers and then the next minute play the hell of a Black Metal show.

-Are you apt of releasing a REAL tribute album and, in case you are, which bands would it feature?

Is Pandamonium not a real tribute album? Of course the originals are mostly pop songs instead of metal, but you see, with Pandamonium we pay an honest and serious tribute to all those incredible, fantastic byproducts and popstars that impress the whole world with surprising new ideas and revolutionary arrangements with each new single on the market... No, we will probably never release a tribute album featuring our favourite metal songs transformed into other metal songs, they're just too good to be considerably improved. A part of the Blackseed Boys concept is to take the worst (pop-) songs and create really good music on the basis of their (mostly more than boring) ideas.

-Have you thought of creating something serious? Something that could be persuading the (bored) crowd that there are people who STILL are capable of avoiding clichés? What made me ask you this was the obvious talents of you both...

Thank you for the compliment. To answer this question it's necessary to philosophize a little about the word "cliche", or better about the difference between clichés and characteristics. Would you say fast and distorted guitars or screaming vocals are Black Metal clichés, or are they just characteristics of that music? Or think about that question for a while: What would Black Metal without clichés sound like, would it even be recognizable as Black Metal any longer? I mean, every kind of music has its characteristics, you could easily describe the difference between a Bach fugue and a Meshuggah track. So did Bach just use baroque clichés? Now enough of the questions, the answer is simple: It just depends on HOW you use the characteristics of different styles. If you use female moans and a low pitched voice just to sound like early Cradle stuff, that would be using clichés (just like we did on Pandamonium), but if you used those characteristics to express a certain message or feeling or whatever (like Cradle did back then), if those characteristics are but stylistic devices that contribute to an interesting concept, that's (in our opinion at least) recognizable metal music without clichés. Examples for that are Artcurius "La Masquerade Infernale" or Emporers "Anthems..." Now back to your question: Indeed the two of us have own material, but we never had the idea to compose serious music together - don't know why. But we work in different musical projects as well, none of which has any finished material yet. So maybe in a couple of years you'll read in an advertisement "new CD out now! Featuring Blackseed Boys members!" (Wouldn't that be awesome?) Of course, if you checked the BSB homepage (www.blackseedboys.de) now and then you'd know earlier than the rest of the world.

-If you happen to face Danny Filth someday what would you advise him (not) to do?

Well, first we would advise (if not force) him to take Nick, Stuart and Lector back into the band. Since these three highly gifted musicians left C.O.F., the band's creativity constantly faded! And then we'd persuade him to write and publish the "Complete Cradle of Filth Dictionary in three volumes". Volume one should contain every single word he uses with explanation and etymological background, volume two all the myths and feartales he alludes to in full length and volume three descriptions of all those creative neologisms and puns including those in the credits and thank you lists.

PS: Thank you a lot for this unique and interesting interview, it's so pleasing not having to answer the same questions over and over again!

www.blackseedboys.de

BRITAIN-FA

Gerbe Of Life

GERBE OF LIFE, the other band on the split CD with REPUDIATE released by Skull Fucked Productions, is definitely a little bit more popular; I even remembered that we had received another demo record for reviewing time ago. I also remained with the impression that GERBE OF LIFE are more active when it comes to Internet promotion and live appearances. Well, if you don't know the name of this band then it is time to get acquainted with this brutal French formation!

DILIANA IANKOVA

-First of all, can you tell us how GERBE OF LIFE was formed?

Hi! We formed GERBE OF LIFE in 1997 with the idea of playing a music mixing various extreme waves with Grind Core as a main basis. At the beginning, we wanted to play Grind Core with some severe Techno Hard Core influences with the help of one of our friends who's also a DJ / sound engineer. But it didn't work that much because of some material problems. So we started rehearsing as a "normal" two piece band. We passed through some line up changes as we didn't find in our area somebody that'd fit. After some other line up changes we recorded a demo CD and we did some promo, then we found a good new label called Skull Fucked (until then they released a fanzine) thanks to our web-master. A split CD with REPUDIATE is out now! The band is actually composed of Michael (vocals), Cedric (Bass), David (Guitars) and myself (Seb) pushing the drums.

-Why did you choose such a name for your band, does it have any special meaning to you?

GERBE OF LIFE means the "vomit of life", it represents the regurgitation of all the most pestilential atrocities of existence. We choose this name because it fits very well to our music, and in my opinion it fits with the very of each extreme music style's elements we add in our music. I mean all the guys who play extreme stuff, might it be Black Metal, Grind Core, Death Metal, Hard Core, Indus, Crust, whatever... they do this because they have got the fucking disgust of life, because of so many problems, stress, oppressions they get everyday in their head... and the name GERBE OF LIFE represents it, at least for us.

-Is this your first ever demo? Also, have you been shown interest by any labels so far?

The demo you own is the very first professional recording we did, we wanted to get to something at least decent to spread our name and music. As I told you before, we've signed with Skull Fucked Prod and a split CD with REPUDIATE is out now! Our part of the split includes tracks from our demo with a more powerful sound. But before signing with Skull Fucked, we got some interest from other labels such as Brain Prods who wanted to release a Split CD-R between GERBE OF LIFE and his own band, the guy behind the Bloodsoaked thing (USA) also wanted to release our full-length CD and we got some interest from Phil Fasciana (MALEVOLENT CREATION) for some collaboration with his label Arctic Music, he was on tour in Europe for some months with his band so he said we'll both wait and see what's up when he goes back at home... but before his return to the States we got some interest from Skull Fucked and we chose to sign with them as it's a very serious label, and are also French (so the communication is easier).

-What do the lyrics deal with conceptually? They are in French, as I can see... What urged you to choose this very language? As if French suits Black Metal acts better...

Our lyrics are all written in French as we doesn't speak English very well. And I think one can more easily express himself in his natural tongue, in our case our vocalist can better picture and put his rage and frustration in French as he immediately understands what he says, it comes naturally. Our lyrics are about all the things that make us shit in life, everything we can do anything against in our life. Our lyrics are about all the frustrations and negative side of life, all the shits we can't do anything against in this existence. So we take the opportunity of music to be able to at least express our deep opinions. Here's a description of each track's meaning: "Face Cachée" (hidden face in English) is about a person who's false both with itself and with the other individuals, self frustration, "Trouble Psychologique" is about the repercussions of all threatened world violence, alcoholic ragers... on a person's mental equilibrium, "Bouffe de Merde" (food of shit) is about all this synthetic shit that's put in our food, all the genetically modified stuffs that'll have got some repercussions on your body, "Masquerade Politique" is about the greed of the politics, their only goal is to earn money! Pedophiles, Filles de Putes" is the story of a guy raped by a pedophile and also a description of this individual, "Trafic d'Organes" is about the organs traffic and all the big business that consists of selling some parts of the human body, "Insurmountable Existence": some lyrics should be enough: "You wake up, and the stress ever overcomes you. The adrenaline flows in your body as a feeling of destruction that can't be soothed. The disgust in the mouth, hatred of injustice, and even of the concept of life. You don't know how to face it..." Chrétiens Demagogue Supreme": mental slavery of the believers. This guys has got so few freedom of thoughts because of this inquisition like ideas and self inflicted dogmas of shit... "Solitude Exacerbée": the story of a guy who suffered too much and who enclosed himself in his own morbid world. He's trapped in his own world and can't escape what has become a prison, "Vision Apocalyptique": Here are the lyrics: "Infectious diseases, holocaust, genocide, exhumed bodies, overcrowded graveyards, apocalyptic vision, murderous insanity, atomic war, apocalypse, destruction of mankind". "Utterly Brutal Death Metal is what GERBE OF LIFE's music is about... What do you think this mass appearance of Death Metal bands lately might be due to?

I'd rather say we play old school Grind Core with Brutal Death, Death Metal, Black Metal, Crust influences... In our opinion, there has always been a lot of Underground Death Metal bands releasing demos, playing gigs. But it's true there's some kind of an American Brutal Death trend in the Underground as most of the new bands sound a lot like CANNIBAL CORPSE, SUFOCCATION, and so on. This might come from the growing recognition that CANNIBAL CORPSE gets from their neverending tours and albums... I could say it comes from the frustration that all the kids get from this life, but there has always been extreme Metal waves and trends growing and dying.

-Apparently you are influenced from USA's Death / Grind acts... Anyway, what inspires you most?

Our influences are varied and go from the '88 / '92 Grind and Death scene with bands like NAPALM DEATH, CARGASS, GODFLESH, TERRORIZER, C.N.T., PESTILENCE, MORGOTH, MORBID ANGEL, SUFOCCATION, etc. to some more current bands like NILE, IMMORTAL, DISRUPT, EXHUMED, MORTICIAN, NARCISS. Some given musicians strongly influenced us in their style of composition and for their personal style in their thing: Mick Harris or Pete Sandoval that had a very strong influence on my drum playing, Bill Steer and Trey Azagthor had also some fucking riffs and on their first releases all the riffs were intense from the beginning to the end of a composition. At the time the first albums of these bands were released, some bands achieved to release totally intense

albums from the beginning to the end of the releases... unlike nowadays, when some bands release albums with 2 or 3 really good songs and the rest ain't so good. But we were very enthusiastic and surprised when we listened to NILE's first album for example, as they achieved to release the same kind of totally intense and excellent album, such as during the Death Metal golden days, and with some kind of a same feeling / enthusiasm somewhere. The things that influence us the most both in lyrics and our state of mind are all the shits one can see on the Newsreels if he thinks for a minute, all the negative moments one human being has to deal with during his existence... the list could be long!

-When were you involved in the scene for a first time? What exactly stirred your interest?

I was involved in the scene for the first time in 1998. At this time I was 16 years old, I started to listen to my first extreme Metal release such as the first METALLICA albums, early SEPULTURA, NUCLEAR ASSAULT and a bit later the first MORGOTH, PESTILENCE releases. What attracted my attention is the simple fact that what this music expressed was totally fitting to what I was feeling. I remember I saw Christophe (our ex-guitarist) playing drums in a Punk band around '88 - '89 and I knew I wanted to play drums...

-Are you working upon a new material at the moment? Do you think of releasing your debut (official) album soon?

At the moment we have 8 new tracks ready and we've got some more ideas to work on. These new tracks are more mature and more extreme in my opinion. If we get the opportunity, I think it will be released in about 8-10 months. We're also working on some covers we may decide on our next release. There will be TERRORIZER, REPULSION, DEATH... and we're working on adding some personal elements and arrangements on these cover tracks as that's what makes them interesting.

-The name of the CD you love spinning most currently?

I'm not sure if I understand well your question, but if you mean which CD I listen to most recently, I can tell you it's the "203 Barriers" CD of the French band KILL THE THRILL. I discovered the band only a few months ago and their depressive music influenced by GODFLESH (even if it's not as crushing and discordant) is fucking emotional. I enjoy the way they add some of their "non Metal" influences. Definitely a good French band that deserves more recognition!

-Your 3 favourite albums?

There were so many excellent albums released in the past that it's almost impossible to quote only 3 fav ones. But I can tell you that some of my fav albums are MORBID ANGEL "Altars of Madness", TERRORIZER "World Downfall" and IMMORTAL "Battles in the North". These are some of the CDs we've played and still play a lot on our Hi-Fi. We still discover new elements and rich touches on these such as Pete Sandoval's drum playing for example. This guy has some great skills and an obvious talent that made him create some fucking impressive and personal drum parts, the same goes for Trey Azagthor, Bill Steer, Chuck Schuldiner (R.I.P.)... We're still listening to their albums with a lot of pleasure!

-What do you associate beer, girls, drugs and parties with? Do you regard concerts as the very key to this life?

For me, beer, girls, drugs and parties are simply associated with the human being who wants to get some fun! The gigs are mainly meant to play your music, to do something you enjoy. Then comes the pussies, beers, following to the musicians' tastes, but it only depends on each individual's personality.

-What would you state in conclusion?

Thanks for this interview and for the support you will bring to GERBE OF LIFE in this coming issue! I'd have liked to say some words about your country's Metal scene, but I don't know much so it will be hard... Your mag is pro and well distributed while remaining totally Underground, and it's a very good support for all kind of extreme Metal bands coming from all over the world! Keep up the good work! Hail to the Metalists from Bulgaria who feel this music in their guts! Those who want to order our Split CD with REPUDIATE (12 US\$ postpaid) or to get in touch with us can send us a mail here:

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-Hello, Rolf. Congratulations on your new album „The Brotherhood“! How do you feel about it after the work is finally done?

Thank you. I just feel satisfied.

-Well, this is your second album with a photo on the cover. What happened with your collaboration with Andreas Marschal?

He has been so busy lately, that I just decided to use some different ideas this time - like the idea for the flag on the „Victory“ cover. I decided to do that, because otherwise the albums would be delayed.

-Well, Rolf, what happened with your last line-up?

I can tell you about Thilo. He simply said to me he couldn't do it anymore and I can't blame him for that! He has 3 children to look after and he couldn't work at 100% with the band. 10 days ago we presented the new second guitarist in Southern Germany. He came from ANGEL DUST.

-When just one person is the mastermind behind some band, people always say he is a dictator like Blackie Lawless, Jeff Waters or Dave Mustaine. Is Rock'n'Rolf a dictator?

No, not really. I always gave the people place to be free when they write any other song apart from mine.

-One simply can't mistake RUNNING WILD for any other band. Some blame you for never changing your style even a bit, but they are not right. Do you think a band should change its style only to please the journalists?

No. This is bullshit! Music is feeling in the first place. It comes from the heart and the most important thing is that music should please YOU.

-From my position of a great RUNNING WILD fan I can say that I don't want RUNNING WILD to change style at any cost! That's the music I like and when I buy a new RUNNING WILD CD, I buy it to hear another pile of great Heavy Metal songs! Do most of your fans think that way too?

Absolutely! That's why RUNNING WILD has been so successful all over the years. That's why we sell so much records. In Germany the other bands go down and don't sell so much anymore and we just kept our selling rates and we also kept our fans. When we play in Germany, we play in front of 13-14 000 people, which is not normal. The people going at such live shows are normally 300-500. RUNNING WILD was so successful over the years, because we make no point in changing and the changes we've made are normal changes in the course of our feelings at the time but we've never thought OK, I have to do the song this way, BECAUSE...I think you're on the wrong track when you think like that.

-Do you think that RUNNING WILD is one of the most underrated bands? You should have a much bigger fan-base!

That would be nice for sure, ha-ha! It would be great to sell more records, but I wouldn't change the music just to reach it!

-Do you personally prefer to play in small venues or in great stadiums?

I prefer to play in bigger halls, especially concerning the stage, because we've got a lot of pyrotechnics, we have a big stage set and we need space to make a good show. But also, if you play in a small club. It could be a great moment on the spiritual side, so to speak, but in the first place I prefer to give the whole show.

-Listening to your latest album „The Brotherhood“, the song that impressed me mostly is „The Ghost“. Tell us something about the lyrical concept behind this 10+ minute epic?

It is based upon the story about Laurence of Arabia. Laurence was a British officer, who had to fight in the war for Arabia's freedom and he tried to free Arabia from the Turkish siege. He was a very conflicting person, he was split up in two, because on the one hand he was a guy born in England and he was an English soldier. On the other hand, he fell in love with the desert plains and Arabia itself and he was just torn apart between that points. That is the very lyrical content ... not the political surroundings that were going on in these days ... the First World War was going to its end in that time. It's pretty much more about this person and his personal tragedy.

-Well, this is perhaps among the best RUNNING WILD songs, along with „Treasure Island“ in my opinion. I sim-

RUNNING WILD

DO WHAT YOU REALLY WANT, NOT WHAT THE PEOPLE TELL YOU TO DO!

RUNNING WILD is just a legendary band in the history of Metal. Their name is the epitome of qualitative music with no compromises. RUNNING WILD stand tall in the European Heavy Metal scene along with their friends from GRAVE DIGGER, GAMMA RAY, BLIND GUARDIAN and RAGE. We were very happy to have the opportunity to interview a man like Rolf Kasperek, who proved to be a personality of great intelligence and spirit.

STOYAN TZONEV

ply can't stop listening to it! There is a unique epic feeling that only you and Steve Harris of IRON MAIDEN can create. What does a musician need to be able to write such monstrous songs?

If I could tell you, anybody else could also do it! It comes from the heart, it comes from the feelings. I would think that Steve Harris would tell you exactly the same! I don't think you can tell what you are doing when creating such a song. I just try to put myself in the story and let the story flow. Normally I try to create the mood to let the lyrics work in the song, if you look for example at the middle part of „The Ghost“, which is very oriental, in order to create the feeling of the desert.

-This is exactly the case with the song „Nomad“ from the latest IRON MAIDEN album, if you have heard it. OK, Rolf, it seems that you have replaced the old pirate lyrical theme with the battle between Good and Evil. Is that a tendency after the „Black Hand Inn“ album?

Y'know, we did these three records, which you can see as a trilogy. It was never planned; I just figured it out

when I was doing „Victory“. It was never that I wanted to change anything, it was just that I personally thought about all this stuff. In the new album there is also an influence from that in the title song „The Brotherhood“, which also deals with the Good and Evil and also these kinds of secret orders that create conspiracy. I deal much more with the people, who try to move the world with their political power and their money in order to create a world in which they could live on their best; just to change everything not for the better but for the better for themselves and if it gets worse for 90% of the people they don't fucking care. This topic has something to do with the last three albums.

-I was also very impressed by the great instrumental „Siberian Winter“! How did you get the idea about including such a long and epic composition in the album? It is not typical for RUNNING WILD.

The idea came because I'm really interested in the Russian history. Like you can see on the „Victory“ album there's a song called „Tsar“, which is about the last Tsar

of Russia. There was an idea to do a song about this theme and an idea about the title „Siberian Winter“. It was natural to me that this could only be an instrumental...just to create the feeling; the coldness and the loneliness of this kind of surrounding, so what I wanted to create was this kind of cold feeling. The funny point on that part is that the realization of that song was delayed in order to create the other ones and when I was really putting that song together it was about 35 degrees outside when I was in the studio! The funny part is that it actually worked, despite the fact that it was pretty hot when I was doing the song. It has that feeling of coldness and being lost in a snowstorm or something like that.

-Well, tell us something then about your interest in the Russian Empire and the tsars, who ruled it!

If you have a look at all the lyrics that I did, there's a lot of lyrics dealing with history in general. The song „Little Big Horn“ deals with American history for example. In fact, I'm collecting ancient military stuff from the XIX century and the beginning of the XX century and the main part of my collection is from imperial Russia from the period of the last tsar. I read a lot about the family and about the person himself, because the only thing that you normally know is that he was just a tsar of Russia, but nothing about the person himself. In the song „Tsar“ I was dealing much more with the personal tragedy of the man and his family and then about the political surroundings and what has led to the Russian revolution. I read lots of books about the Russian revolution that say it came from a totally different point than you would normally think. In the first place, it was paid by America and Prussia in these days. A few people like Lenin wanted this kind of revolution, but not for the people, but for himself. This is what I told you before about the song „The Brotherhood“, because he didn't want the people to get better and live better, but he wanted to get it better. That is the main point, because after the revolution, the people of Russia were pretty much more in a worse situation than they were ever before! There was killing, murdering and plundering what the Red Army did to all the people after the revolution. So there are many interesting points in that are also put in the song.

-Rolf, Terrorizer Magazine recently wrote that RUNNING WILD were going to make their first live appearance in Britain in the spring of 2002! Is that true?

We're doing some German shows in March but there are plans to do a lot of European shows. There is a show on June 9 in Italy on the „Gods of Metal“ festival, we are co-headlining there. We are also doing some shows in Spain and we will also play some festivals in Sweden and Hungary.

-How does a typical RUNNING WILD show look like?

Spectacular, ha-ha! We have a lot of pyrotechnics and we have a big stage set and light show. Y'know it takes a lot of money to do it and this is the main reason why we don't do many shows ... it's very expensive. We have about 20 people working for us for every show!

-What is your message towards all the young Heavy Metal bands that search for the secret of success?

In the first place ... do what you really want, not what the people tell you to do. That means ... don't change your style, don't change what you feel is right and what you wanna hear for yourself. That is the main point. Nowadays, it's so easy to get a record deal yet so hard to keep it and this is the problem. When I started out it was too hard to get a record company, almost impossible. The problem is to find out a record company, which is really interested in building up the band and not just releasing it!

-Thank you very much for this interview, Rolf! It was a great honour to talk with one of the greatest songwriters in the history of Metal! What will you say to our readers in conclusion?

We hope to see you live on tour and I hope that you will like the new album! Keep the spirit ... that's it! „... people, who try to move the world with their political power and their money in order to create a world in which they could live on their best; just to change everything not for the better but for the better for themselves and if it gets worse for 90% of the people they don't fucking care!“





ETERNAL LIES

Spiritual Deception

Described by Scandinavia's biggest metal magazine "Close-Up" as "the best deathmetal band in Sweden..", Eternal Lies takes melodic death metal to it's edge. "Spiritual Deception" attacks with 10 brutal yet versatile anthems featuring members of Anata, Eucharist and Fatal Embrace. Death metal beyond belief, these guys know what they are doing.



CELEBRATUM

Mirrored Revelation

Celebratum's debut "Mirrored Revelation" is a fast, angry, and soul-ripping Black Metal masterpiece. Eight epic tracks from the sickest band hailing from the cold corners of Norway.

"While so many newer bands are caught up within the useless cycle of imitation.. Celebratum sneak in and succeed in probing the power black metal can have."

- Starbox 'zine

homo iratus

knowledge...their enemy.

"knowledge...their enemy" is but a small taste of things to come. On the heels of their astonishing debut album "Human Consumes Human" Greece's brutal **Homo Iratus** unleash an audial and visual assault on humanity. This monstrous EP contains 4 songs, including a ferocious cover of Sepultura's "Roots Bloody Roots" and 2 multimedia videos that will emerge you in the demented and bizarre world of Homo Iratus.



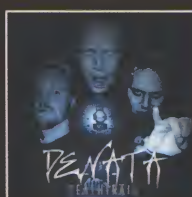
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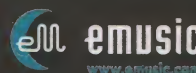


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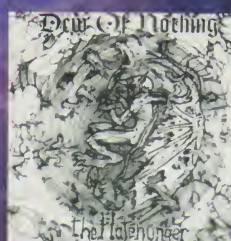
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